

MMS 2025 Photo Contest Rules

Eligibility:

- Open to MMS members only.

Categories & Limits:

- **Pictorial (P):** Up to 5 entries – focus on composition, lighting, and artistic quality.
- **Scientific (S):** Up to 5 entries – highlight features for accurate ID (ideally Genus & species) or highlight features of various species. Multiple photos per entry are permitted, enabling you to show different views of the specimen as well as a spore print and any other identifying characteristics. Up to three collages per entry are permitted.
- **Activity/Humor/Other (O):** Up to 3 entries – mycological events, humor, oddities, or special interest. Multiple photos are permitted per entry if capable of being displayed on one slide.

Awards:

- 1st–4th place in each category.
- At least one award per category is reserved for someone who hasn't won more than twice since 2015.
- Special awards: **Director's Award, Blewit Award (highest vote average), Youth Award (under 18).**

Submission Rules:

1. Submit entries through MMS' new PollUnit site - a link will be emailed to members and the site provides information about how to submit your entries.
2. JPEG format only. A collage is allowed for Scientific and Activity/Humor/Activity if saved as a JPEG (see naming rule below).
3. Basic editing is allowed. No AI-generated photos.
4. Any photo taken when the submitter was a member is eligible.
5. Each photo may be entered in only one category.
6. Captions are optional for Scientific and Activity/Humor/Other categories and should not be placed on the image but may be added by including the caption in the naming of the image. The Contest Director will extract captions for use on the slides for voting and presentation.
7. For Pictorial and Scientific entries, do your best to ID specimens before asking for help. MMS educators can assist if needed. Reach out to the Photo Contest Director if you need assistance. There is no penalty for an inaccurate or incomplete genus/species if you have sought help before the contest deadline.
8. Extra credit is given in Scientific category scoring for an unusual species and/or submission of a field slip.
9. MMS may use submitted photos for MMS purposes; photographers retain ownership.
10. Previously published or copyrighted photos are not allowed.

(continued)

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File Naming Convention:

1. Each jpeg photo should be saved/labeled according to the following protocol “identifiers”

- 4-digit year
- Photo contest category (p, s, or o)
- Photographer last name and first name, separated by an underscore
- For Pictorial and Scientific submissions: Genus and species (in lowercase and separated by an underscore)
- The caption, if any, (in lowercase with underscores between words)
- Where more than one photo in a single submission: a counter number

Here are some examples:

- Pictorial:
[2024-p-etzweiler_nancy-connopus_acervatus.jpeg](#)
- Activity/Humor/Other (with caption):
[2024-o-trapp_paul-i_toadally_need_a_bigger_umbrella.jpeg](#)
- Scientific – single photo or slide:
[2024-s-etzweiler_nancy-gloeophyllum_sepium.jpeg](#)
[2024-s-lamprecht_john-cespitose_species.jpeg](#)
- Scientific – multiple photos or jpeg collages in entry:
[2023-s-goltz_howard-leucoagaricus_leucothites-1.jpeg](#)
[2023-s-goltz_howard-leucoagaricus_leucothites-2.jpeg](#)
[2023-s-goltz_howard-leucoagaricus_leucothites-3.jpeg](#)

Questions? Need help?

Contact Photo Contest Director, Nan Etzwiler
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