



# THE SOUTH TEXAS PRO CLASSIC 2010 Wildlife Photo Contest



conducted by Photo Bound Tours, L.L.C.,  
in association with The Valley Land Fund

## OFFICIAL RULES

The South Texas Pro Classic official rules are published as a PDF document, named "Rules." The rules document is available online to view and/or download, under the Documents tab on the Photo Bound Tours website, at [photoboundtours.com](http://photoboundtours.com). The published date of the rules is located at the bottom of every page. Once the rules are published, we will do our best to not make changes. However, in the event this happens, all registered contestants will be notified via email. Before submitting an entry, photographers should check their email as well as the FAQs and Documents sections of the Photo Bound Tours website. Photographers may contact the Photo Contest Director to inquire the rules' date of publication.

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES SECTIONS

- I. CONTEST
- II. CONTEST REGION
- III. CONTEST PERIOD
- IV. PHOTOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER TEAM
- V. REGISTRATION FEES
- VI. REGISTRATION
- VII. IMAGE FORMAT
- VIII. DAMAGED OR DEFECTIVE CD, DVD OR IMAGE FILES
- IX. IMAGE OWNERSHIP AND USAGE
- X. IMAGE PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION DEADLINE
- XI. PHOTO CONTEST CLASSES
- XII. ALLOWABLE PHOTOGRAPHS
- XIII. NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE
- XIV. COMMON SENSE AND SAFETY
- XV. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
- XVI. JUDGING
- XVII. RULES COMMITTEE
- XVIII. PRIZES

## **I. CONTEST**

The 2010 South Texas Pro Classic (“Pro Classic”) and a special, separate division of the photo contest, the South Texas Open (“Open Division”), are held on privately-owned and public land in the Rio Grande Valley, specified in the Contest Region. Cash prizes are distributed to the top-winning photographers, and cash incentives are paid to certain contracted landowners with photography-ready property maintained for natural habitat.

## **II. CONTEST REGION**

All photographs must be taken anywhere in the eight-county region of the Rio Grande Valley, including Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, Willacy and Zapata. Photographs may be taken on privately-owned and public property, including nature centers, birding centers, wildlife refuges, state, county and city parks and the zoo, with certain restrictions. See Allowable Photographs, Section XII.

## **III. CONTEST PERIOD**

Photographs in the Pro Classic must be taken between June 1, 2010, and July 31, 2010. The Open Division allows the entry of older photographs, taken between January 1, 2008, and July 31, 2010.

## **IV. PHOTOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER TEAM**

For the purpose of this contest, a Photographer is defined as an amateur or professional photographer, of any age, who has submitted a complete Registration Form for the Contest and paid the applicable Registration Fee on or before June 15, 2010. A Photographer may enter one portfolio of images in either or both the Pro Classic and Open Division.

A Photographer Team is defined as a team of two Photographers submitting one portfolio of images in either or both the Pro Classic and Open Division. A Photographer Team pays the applicable Registration Fee for a team of two Photographers.

## **V. REGISTRATION FEES**

The appropriate Registration Fee must be included with a registration form. The Registration Fee includes registration in the Pro Classic as well as the Open Division. Confirmation of receipt of entry forms and fees will be made to Photographers. All Registration Fees and entries are final and no refunds will be issued. Registration Fees are as follows:

Photographer (one)	\$300
Photographer (team of two)	\$500

## **VI. REGISTRATION**

The registration deadline for all Photographers is June 15, 2010. Photo Bound Tours reserves the right to extend or deny any Registration Fees or registration forms after this time.

Registration must be completed either in writing and mailed, or online.

If written and mailed, the registration form and Registration Fee must be received on or before June 15, 2010. PDF registration forms can be obtained online on the Photo Bound Tours

website, at [photoboundtours.com](http://photoboundtours.com) under the Documents tab, and printed. A printed registration form may be requested by contacting the Photo Contest Director in writing. Use the following address: 2010 South Texas Pro Classic, Photo Contest Director, PO Box 3, Linn, TX 78563.

For online registration, the registration form must be completed and the Registration Fee must be paid before midnight June 15, 2010, Central Daylight Time (CDT). Registration forms for online entry are available on the Photo Bound Tours website at [photoboundtours.com](http://photoboundtours.com) under the Register tab.

The minimum number of photographers registered in the South Texas Pro Classic is 25, with no maximum limit.

## **VII. IMAGE FORMAT**

Photographers may use any Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera with a minimum of six megapixel resolution, capable of photographing in RAW format. No point-and-shoot cameras are allowed.

Photographers must submit portfolios of digital format images on CD or DVD. No 35mm slides, negatives, prints, or images scanned from film are allowed.

RAW, TIF and JPG files are required. See Submissions Guidelines, Section XV. A complete, detailed set of submission guidelines for the Pro Classic is available online at the Photo Bound Tours website at [photoboundtours.com](http://photoboundtours.com), under the Documents tab.

## **VIII. DAMAGED OR DEFECTIVE CD, DVD OR IMAGE FILES**

Photo contest staff take reasonable precautions to protect the images submitted for judging. If a CD or DVD is received damaged or defective, or if a file will not open, the Photographer will be notified immediately.

Prior to submitting a portfolio of images, Photographers should ensure that the images are viewable and are capable of opening on a PC computer that is not the Photographer's primary computer.

If photo contest staff, designated volunteers and/or judges are unable to open any files, the Photographer will be notified. The submitted image will be ruled defective and disqualified. If this were to occur, the Photographer may appeal the decision to the Rules Committee and request to cure the defective image but not replace it, provided judging has not commenced.

Photo Bound Tours and the VLF are not responsible for lost, damaged or defective files, CDs or DVDs. Photographers' entries on CD or DVD will not be returned after the conclusion of the contest. Photo Bound Tours and the VLF strongly advise Photographers to create an identical backup of their entries.

## **IX. IMAGE OWNERSHIP AND USAGE**

All images remain the property of the Photographer. Photo Bound Tours, the Valley Land Fund (VLF) and sponsors reserve certain rights to use the images for all their purposes,

including, but not limited to, production of brochures, promotion of future contests, public relations, advertising, education, books, photo DVD and a photo exhibit.

Sponsors of \$1,000 or more receive at least one print. Photographers entering the Contest consent to Photo Bound Tours, the VLF and its Sponsors use of their images. Sponsors of \$3,000 or more are granted commercial rights to use images at the rate of one image per \$1,000 sponsorship to promote their businesses for any one continuous year during the two-year period starting January 1, through December 31, of the following year. Sponsors may not sell images. Sponsors who use images must credit Photo Bound Tours, the VLF and the Photographer. Any additional use of the images must be negotiated directly with the Photographer. It is agreed that all commercial rights end after the use of the images for two years and any images kept in Sponsor files, in any form, must be destroyed.

Photo Bound Tours reserves the right to market prints of images. Net proceeds after deducting costs will be split 60% to Photo Bound Tours and the VLF and 40% to the Photographer. This is not an exclusive right. Photographers may also sell their own prints. Photo Bound Tours and the VLF have sole discretion to set the price of the prints they sell.

#### **X. IMAGE PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Image portfolio submissions on CD or DVD must be received by Photo Bound Tours or its designated agent by the end of business day (5:00 pm) Monday, August 16, 2010.

Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted.

No electronic submissions by email or other internet methods will be accepted.

#### **XI. PHOTO CONTEST CLASSES**

Both the South Texas Pro Classic and Open Division are divided into the following classes:

<b>Portraits I</b>	Birds, Mammals
<b>Portraits II</b>	Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish & Marine Life, Invertebrates
<b>Portraits III</b>	Flora – Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Cactus, etc.
<b>Scenes I</b>	Scenes Including Birds, Mammals
<b>Scenes II</b>	Scenes Including Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish & Marine Life, Invertebrates
<b>Scenes III</b>	Scenes Including Flora – Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Cactus, etc.
<b>Skies &amp; Water</b>	Skies, Water in any Form – Water, Waterscapes, Waterways, etc.
<b>The Land</b>	Land in any Form – Land, Landscapes, Brush, Open Spaces
<b>Culture &amp; History of the Land</b>	Cultural Practices & Traditions, Historical Use, Farm & Ranch Life, Farm & Ranch Operations, something to do with the land from the past

Further requirements and descriptions of these classes are contained in the next section, Allowable Photographs.

## **XII. Allowable Photographs**

Questions about the eligibility of any photograph for the Pro Classic and/or the Open Division should be directed to the Photo Contest Director prior to entry.

All photographs must be taken on privately-owned or public property such as farms, ranches, nature centers, birding centers, wildlife refuges, state, county and city parks and the zoo, with restrictions listed in the Allowable Photographs section.

Photographers are not required to partner with landowners as in past contests and are not restricted to one property. Photographers may take photographs anywhere they have legal access within the contest region.

Photographers should keep records of the locations where they photograph. The file information embedded in Photographers' RAW images by the camera must not be deleted. A brief caption and description are required for all images entered. We understand that older photographs entered in the Open Division may not include the information requested. However, if at all possible, please include all pertinent information about each photograph.

In all classes, images with the same subject photographed at the same location, in the same lighting, with the same background, and with the same or similar focal length lens and angle of view are considered similar. Only one image from any series of similar images is allowed.

In all classes except for the Culture & History of the Land class, no photographs of domestic or exotic animals, livestock, pets or other tamed animals are allowed in this contest.

In all classes, photographs must be taken and entered as color images. However, the Culture & History of the Land class also allows entries that have been taken in color and converted to black and white. For details about black and white entries, see the Submission Guidelines.

Images in the Portraits I and II and Scenes I and II classes must include wildlife. Images of unrestrained animals are highly preferred. Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates may be carefully restrained for purposes of taking a photograph. Subjects must be released unharmed, where they were found. Restrained mammals species are limited to small ones such as rats, mice, moles and shrews. Birds may not be trapped or restrained.

In this contest "Portraits" means the subject fills no less than one-half of the long side of the frame. Images in the Portraits I and II classes must include subjects that fill no less than one-half of the long side of the frame.

In this contest "Scenes" within the Scenes I and Scenes II classes means that the subject should be portrayed within its habitat.

Images in Portraits III, Scenes III, Skies & Water, The Land, and Culture & History of the Land classes are not required to include wildlife. Examples include landscapes, waterscapes, stars, trees, plants, cactus, flowers, sunrises, sunsets, and farm and ranch operations. A high level of preference is given to trees, plants, cactus and flowers native to the Rio Grande Valley.

Photographs entered in the Open Division may have been entered in prior photo contests, including VLF contests, provided they are taken between January 1, 2008, and July 31, 2010, and have not been published or won an award or prize of any kind. All Open Division entries must follow the same rules as the Pro Classic, with the exceptions listed in this paragraph. Any questions with regard to allowable entries in either the Pro Classic or the Open Division should be directed to the Photo Contest Director prior to entry in the contest.

### XIII. Non-photographic Assistance

Photographers may have non-photographic assistance from one person per photograph. The assistant may be a photographer, photographic assistant, biologist, friend or adviser. The assistant may provide technical advice and/or handle captive animals for the Photographer. The assistant may not touch or handle the Photographer's camera, set up shots, adjust equipment or settings, or take a picture for the Photographer.

### XIV. COMMON SENSE AND SAFETY

Common sense and safe photographic techniques should dictate what Photographers do at all times. Photographers must not enter private or public property where they do not have legal access. Before entering private property, Photographers must obtain permission from the landowner for access to the land. When photographing roadside, Photographers should make sure their vehicles are pulled safely onto the shoulder of the road.

### XV. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A complete, detailed set of submission guidelines for the Pro Classic is available online at the Photo Bound Tours website, [photoboundtours.com](http://photoboundtours.com), under the Documents tab.

The Pro Classic allows up to eight images per class in each of the nine classes, but no more than a total of 50 images. The Open Division allows up to five images per class in each of the nine classes, but no more than a total of 25 images. An entry cannot be more than 75 images.

In all entries, three sets of files are required: original, RAW, captured from the camera; high-resolution TIF, processed from the RAW files; and JPG, with certain attributes for judging.

Minimal, "global" adjustments may be made at the photographer's discretion: cleaning (dust), levels, curves, color, saturation and contrast, applied to the image as a whole.

Minimal cropping is allowed, limited to removal of up to 10% of the original image captured by the camera. The photographer is responsible, whether or not s/he performed the processing.

### XVI. JUDGING

Double-blind judging is used. Neither the judges nor the volunteer staff will have access to the names of the photographers whose images they are handling.

Photo contest staff, designated volunteers and/or judges may compare a Photographer's final submission to the RAW format digital image captured by the camera to verify that only allowable adjustments have been made to said image. The discovery of any adjustments not allowed will result in that image being disqualified.

Photo contest staff, designated volunteers and/or judges may discover that a Photographer has entered an image in the wrong class. The discovery of any image entered in the wrong class will result in that image being disqualified and given no score.

In the Pro Classic, all eligible entries are judged individually by a three-judge panel. Each judge views all eligible images and assigns a numerical score to each image, based on his/her assessment of the image's technical quality, composition, content (story), originality and aesthetic appeal. The three judges' scores are added for an accumulated score for each image.

The five highest-scoring images in each of the nine classes are declared winners of the Pro Classic, creating a collection of 45 winning images. If necessary, ties will be broken. Bonus points and a cash prize of \$200 are awarded to each of the 45 winning images. From these images the judges will choose Best of Contest, and bonus points and a cash prize of \$250 are awarded to Best of Contest.

The three portfolios of images with the highest accumulation of points are declared First, Second and Third Grand Prize winners and are awarded \$2,500, \$2,000 and \$1,500, respectively. A total of \$15,250 in cash will be awarded to Pro Classic photographers. If necessary, ties will be broken.

Photographers have better chances for winning a grand prize in the Pro Classic by entering a 50-image portfolio. Entering fewer than 50 images reduces the chances for winning a grand prize award.

In the Open Division, all eligible entries are judged individually by a three-judge panel. Each judge views all eligible images and assigns a numerical score to each image, based on his/her assessment of the image's technical quality, composition, content (story), originality and aesthetic appeal. The three judges' scores are added for an accumulated score for each image.

The three highest-scoring images in each of the nine classes are declared winners of the Open Division, creating a collection of 27 winning images. If necessary, ties will be broken. Bonus points and a cash prize of \$100 are awarded to each of the 27 winning images. From these images the judges will choose a Best of Division, and bonus points and a cash prize of \$150 are awarded to Best of Division.

The three portfolios of images with the highest accumulation of points are declared First, Second and Third Grand Prize winners and are awarded \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, respectively. A total of \$5,100 in cash will be awarded to Open Division photographers. If necessary, ties will be broken.

Photographers have better chances for winning a grand prize in the Open Division by entering a 25-image portfolio. Entering fewer than 25 images reduces the chances for winning a grand prize award.

## **XVII. RULES COMMITTEE**

The photo contest Rules Committee decides all rules interpretation and enforcement. Complaints concerning any alleged rules violations must be submitted to the Photo Contest Director in writing. The Rules Committee may investigate complaints, and all decisions made by the Rules Committee are final.

## **XVIII. PRIZES**

As described in the Judging section above, the Pro Classic provides cash prizes of \$200 each to 45 winning images (\$9,000 total), \$250 to Best of Contest and \$2,500, \$2,000 and \$1,500 to First, Second and Third Grand Prize, respectively. The Pro Classic payout totals \$15,250. All prize money is awarded to photographers. (There are no landowner contestants.) If necessary, ties will be broken.

As described in the Judging section above, the Open Division provides cash prizes of \$100 each to 27 winning images (\$2,700 total), \$150 to Best of Division and \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to First, Second and Third Grand Prize, respectively. The Open Division payout totals \$5,100. All prize money in this division is awarded to photographers. (There are no landowner contestants.) If necessary, ties will be broken.

Payout to winners of the Pro Classic is \$15,250. Payout to winners of the Open Division is \$5,100. Total payout to the winners of the Pro Classic and the Open Division is \$20,350.

Additional prizes of equipment, gift certificates and other items may be awarded at the awards event in late September or early October, 2010. All prize donors receive recognition in any printed materials generated as a result of the photo contest, including the awards event program, websites of Photo Bound Tours, L.L.C., and VLF, and other venues.