

# Rules for the 2021 Seasons of the St. Louis River, an Area of Concern Photo Contest

## BACKGROUND

The St. Louis River Area of Concern (SLRAOC) was designated by the U.S. & Canada under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement because of locally caused, significant environmental impacts that occurred before modern environmental laws were in place. Since its designation in 1987, efforts by many organizations and funding from many sources have helped correct those historical damages.

This photo contest is an opportunity for members of the public to use their talents to show the diversity of the St. Louis River Estuary and the importance of the remediation and restoration efforts being undertaken there.

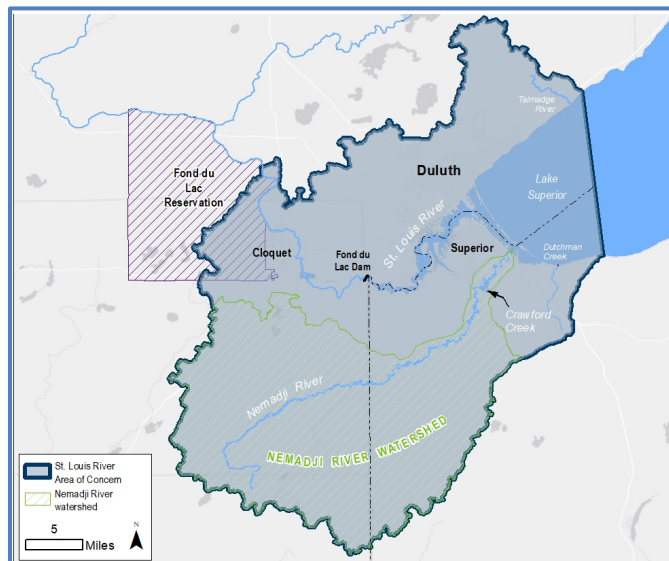
Entries and winners will be shared at the 2021 St. Louis River Area of Concern Celebration of Progress event. They may also be used by the contest sponsors in presentations, web sites, social media posts, outreach materials, and program documents about the SLRAOC. They will help bring those communication tools to life and visually demonstrate the value of the St. Louis River Estuary.

## CONTEST SPONSORS

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - administers the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding supporting this effort
- The St. Louis River Alliance - facilitates the contest
- The Area of Concern's Coordinating Agencies (the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the MN Department of Natural Resources, the MN Pollution Control Agency, and the WI Department of Natural Resources) - assist with selecting the winning photos and utilize the photos in SLRAOC communication materials

## ELIGIBLE PHOTOS:

- All eligible photos will be taken within the St. Louis River Area of Concern, especially the St. Louis River Estuary and the Duluth/Superior Harbor.



- Portraits of wildlife in their natural habitat, animal behavior, the relationship between people and nature, plant life, weather, and seasons, recreation, and harbor activities.
- We are especially interested in images that showcase the wide range of habitats and seasons of the St. Louis River.
- If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted, (form provided in the post-entry section) and must submit copies of those releases to The St. Louis River Alliance when the photo is submitted.
- Photos that have been digitally altered within standard optimization, such as the removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast. The panel of judges will have the sole discretion on whether images meet these requirements.
- All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Multiple exposures that have been combined to produce a single "High Dynamic Range" image are acceptable.
- Photos must be taken between January 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021.

#### **INELIGIBLE PHOTOS:**

- Images that involve human nudity or obscenity, the willful harassment of wildlife, damage to the environment by the photographer, put any individual or animal in danger, or are intentionally inflammatory, involve trespass, or infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person will not be accepted.
- Photos that have been digitally altered beyond the standard optimization listed above will be disqualified. The panel of judges will have the sole discretion on whether images meet these requirements.

#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

- All images must be submitted in two locations:
  1. Submit images to the Woobox application by going to <https://woobox.com/kj8n9y>.
    - Complete all required fields, including name, email and other information about your photo submission.
  2. Once image is submitted to Woobox, send an email copy with your full size photo attachment to [SLRPhotoContest@gmail.com](mailto:SLRPhotoContest@gmail.com) with your name and location of the image. (If you have multiple entries, please email one attachment per email)
- To ensure eligibility for the contest all entries must have a minimum resolution of 6 megapixels.
- Entries may originate in any format as long as they are submitted electronically via the contest rules. JPEG images are preferred.
- Images sent via mail will not be accepted.
- Photo captions must accompany all submissions, and should include the subject of the image, the photo category you are choosing, the location and date the image was taken, and the name of the photographer(s). Please clearly label animals as wild in the digital caption information to assist judges in determining eligibility.
- Submissions may be watermarked if desired, but the watermark should be inconspicuous enough to not interfere with the judging of the photo. A watermarked photo might not be honored by the competition (at the judges sole discretion) if the photographer is unable or unavailable to provide a pristine, watermark-free version of the image when asked.

## **JUDGING:**

- The panel of judges will have the sole discretion on whether images meet the requirements described in this document.
- The public will have an opportunity to vote online for a "People's Choice Photo". In addition, a panel of judges will select the top three places in each of the three award categories (see below).
- Online public voting for the "People's Choice Photo" will occur from Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Final judging will be done by a panel of judges with at least one member from each of the following affiliations: the SLRAOC Coordinators, professional photographers, local artists, and the St. Louis River Alliance board. Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, and artistic merit. All decisions made by the judges are final.
- The St. Louis River Alliance shall determine the eligibility of all submitted photos in its sole and absolute discretion.

## **DEADLINES:**

- Online entries can be uploaded starting 12:00 pm (noon) Central Standard Time on Monday, May 3, 2021. Deadline for submitting entries is 11:59 a.m. Central Standard Time on Monday, October 4, 2021. The St. Louis River Alliance reserves the right to adjust any deadline(s), if necessary.
- Entrants may be asked to add supplemental information about their submission (such as a paragraph about their photo, the highest resolution version of their photo, or a watermark-free version of their photo) anytime during the contest.
- All contest winners will be announced in November 2021 at the annual St. Louis River Area of Concern Celebration of Progress Event. (Date and event to be determined.)

## **AWARD CATEGORIES:**

- Photos will be voted by the public online to select the "People's Choice Photo" winner. The "People's Choice Photo" winner and the photo will be highlighted as the cover photo on the St. Louis River Alliance Facebook page with photo credit, along with being published on the 2021 SLRAOC Remedial Action Plan.
- A Panel of judges will select the top three photos in each of these categories:
  1. Fish, Wildlife, Birds and their Habitat
  2. Plants and Flowers
  3. People, Recreation, and Harbor ActivitiesUnderwater photographs are encouraged for all three categories.
- First place in each category will be awarded \$150 and showcased on the St. Louis River Alliance Facebook page and website. Second and Third place in each category will also be highlighted on the St. Louis River Alliance's social media pages and website.

## **PHOTOGRAPHERS' RIGHTS:**

- Photographs submitted to this contest may be used by any of the Contest Sponsors to help promote the St. Louis River Area of Concern and protect the river's amazing diversity of wildlife, people, plants and habitats. Thank you for your help!
- Photographers will retain all rights to any photograph that is submitted as an entry to this contest, including ownership, if applicable.
- Photographers grant the Project Sponsors use rights to any photo that is submitted in the contest. In all cases of use, photos will be credited to photographer, unless the photographer specifically requests to remain anonymous.

### **CONTEST SPONSORS' RIGHTS**

By submitting a photo in this contest the photographer grants the Project Sponsors:

- A royalty-free, nonexclusive right to use all submissions for publications to further our missions, in perpetuity.
- Use the photograph on the internet in support of our mission.
- Use the photograph in The St. Louis River Alliance communications and publications.
- Provide your photograph to other individuals and organizations for non-commercial use, SLRA-related use in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, etc.
- Keep the files provided, and to archive the images on CD or in other electronic forms, so that your photos can be used to support our mission and be properly credited.
- As conditions of this permission, The St. Louis River Alliance shall credit all photographs with the caption "© Person's Name" when the full name is available.

### **QUESTIONS:**

- Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to Alyssa at [Outreach@StLouisRiver.org](mailto:Outreach@StLouisRiver.org).