

Faces of Biology Photo Contest 2021 Official Rules

Sponsors

Sponsors of the contest are the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB).

Term

The Faces of Biology Photo Contest begins on April 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2021 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time. By submitting an entry, each contestant agrees to the rules of the contest and warrants that his or her entry complies with all requirements set out in the Official Rules.

Eligibility

The contest is open to any legal resident of the United States who is at least 18 years of age. The contest is free to enter. Employees, interns, officers, and board members of the American Institute of Biological Sciences are not eligible.

What to Enter

The theme of the contest is “Faces of Biology.” Photographs entered into the contest must depict a person, such as a scientist, researcher, technician, collections curator, or student, engaging in biological research or education. The depicted research may occur outside, in a lab, with a natural history collection, on a computer, in a classroom, or elsewhere.

Feel free to enter:

- Photos taken anywhere in the world
- Color or black and white photos
- Photos taken at any time

Do not enter photos that:

- You didn't take, or for which someone else owns the copyright
- Only show someone else's copyrighted work
- Show nudity, violence, or symbols or acts of hatred
- Are illegal or prohibited

How to Enter

To enter, visit <https://www.aibs.org/faces-of-biology/> and follow the links and instructions to complete the registration form, upload one photograph that illustrates the theme of the contest, and upload signed model release form(s) if applicable. Each individual is limited to entering one photograph.

Photographs must be in digital format; we do not accept photographs submitted through the mail. High quality scans of negatives, transparencies, or prints will be accepted.

Photographs must be submitted in .jpeg, .jpg, .tiff, or .svg format. Contest winners may be required to submit a high-resolution file (400 dpi) in .tif format.

Minor adjustments, such as cropping, correcting color saturation, or panoramic stitching, are acceptable. Photos whose content has been significantly altered are ineligible.

The photograph must be the original work of the contest entrant and must not contain material that violates or infringes another's rights to privacy, trademarks, or intellectual property rights, or that constitutes copyright infringement.

Sponsors reserve the right to examine the original photograph/source material in order to confirm compliance with these rules.

Releases

Entrants must secure a signed model release from each recognizable person in the photograph, including the entrant, and submit it at the time of entry. In the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian must sign the release. A sample release is available at <https://www.aibs.org/assets/collections/news/AIBS-Photo-Release.doc>. Failure to provide a release for each recognizable person in the photo will result in disqualification from the contest.

Entrants who are selected as the First Place Winner, Second Place Winner, or Third Place Winner may be required to sign a release with the Sponsors granting permission to use third-party media in a scholarly publication.

Entry Deadline

All entries must be received through the AIBS website by 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time on September 30, 2021.

Contest Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to one First Place Winner, one Second Place Winner, and one Third Place Winner. The First Place Winner will have his/her winning photo featured on the cover of *BioScience*, and will receive \$250 and a one year subscription to *BioScience*. The Second and Third Place Winners will have his/her winning photo printed inside *BioScience*, and will receive a one year subscription to *BioScience*.

If the First Place Winner is unable to produce a high-resolution file (8.655 inches in width by 11 inches in height at 400 dpi), the Sponsors may elect to publish the winning photo inside *BioScience* rather than on the cover.

Judging

Judging will be conducted by qualified judges chosen by the Sponsors. Judges will select one First Place Winner, one Second Place Winner, and one Third Place Winner. Judges will make their selection based on the following judging criteria: extent to which the photograph captures the essence of the contest theme (50%); creativity (25%); and composition, clarity, and technical quality (25%). Winners will be notified by December 15, 2021. Decisions of the judges are final.

License

By entering the contest, entrants grant the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology a non-exclusive, transferable, royalty-free, perpetual, worldwide license to display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or subsequently developed, for any educational, promotional, publicity, exhibition, archival, scholarly, advocacy, or non-commercial purpose, without compensation, permission or further notification to the entrant. Examples of uses include, but are not limited to: publication in the journal *BioScience*; promotion of the photo contest; publication on the website of the American Institute of Biological Sciences or the AIBS Legislative Action Center; and in promotional or advocacy documents, pamphlets, or reports. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit as feasible. The Sponsors will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.

Conditions

This contest is void outside the fifty United States and the District of Columbia, and where prohibited.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology reserve the right to cancel the contest or modify these rules at its discretion.

Guidance on Photo Quality

Photos that utilize principles and rules for quality photo composition are typically ranked higher by our judges. Here are some tips and techniques used by past winners that can be used to capture high quality photos.

- Apply the [Rule of Thirds](#) when composing your photograph.
- Use [Symmetry](#) to produce a well-balanced photograph.
- [Fill the Frame](#) to improve the composition of your photograph.
- Use cropping to present the photo effectively; do not crop off limbs.
- Ensure adequate lighting.
- Pay attention to your photo background, focus point, and depth of field; managing each of these attributes can greatly increase a photo's impact.
- Eliminate visual noise such as stray equipment or other distractions that draw attention away from the photo's subject.

- [Reduce camera shake](#) to prevent blurry photographs.
- Try to ensure that the subjects -- human and non-human -- are looking into or across your photo, and not directly out of the frame.
- Acquaint yourself with the additional guidelines on photo composition and quality through the many excellent resources available online. [Like this one.](#)