



**“Picture Middlesex County”
Contest Guidelines**

<https://discovermiddlesex.com/picture-middlesex-county/>

How to Enter: You may submit up to two photos or videos per category, per round of the contest.

Contest Rules

No purchase or payment necessary to enter or win.

Photo Eligibility

To enter, you must be a New Jersey resident. County employees are permitted and encouraged to participate. Ages 17 and under require parent/guardian consent on the entry form. The competition is open to **amateurs and professionals**. The photo/video subject must be **in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and must be taken within the timeframe of the contest**. Entries must be submitted by the original photographer/videographer. Do not submit a photo/video taken by someone other than you. You must be the sole owner of the copyright of any image/video submitted. By submitting an entry to the photo contest, entrants represent that their participation in this contest does not violate any applicable law. Your submission of the photo/video and entry form is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo or video. Your submission of the photo/video also ensures that you have permission to photograph, or video record any recognizable people in the photo/video.

The image or video must be the original taken by the entrant/photographer and/or videographer. The entrant represents that the image or video submitted has not been previously published or previously authorized for publication, except for posting on entrant’s personal electronic accounts. Entrant further represents that the image/video was not produced by the use of deceptive or surreptitious means without the knowledge or consent of the persons depicted in the picture or in violation of the privacy rights of the owner of the premises depicted in the picture.

Number of Entries

An individual may submit no more than two (2) entries per category per round of the contest.

Photo and Video Subject Restrictions

Photos and videos must be appropriate for posting on a public government website. Photos and videos will not be eligible for the contest if they contain:

- Obscene, provocative, sexually explicit, nude, violent, or other offensive or inappropriate content.
- Images and videos that violate or infringe upon another person’s privacy rights or copyrights.

- Images and videos that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer.
- Images and videos that involve putting any individual or animal in danger.

Applicability of the above eligibility standards shall be determined in the sole and absolute discretion of Middlesex County.

Ownership/Rights

Photographers and/or Videographers retain the copyright to their photograph(s) and videos. By entering the contest, photographers and/or videographers agree to have their submitted photograph(s) and video(s) displayed on the Middlesex County, NJ website. No fee or other form of compensation will be remitted to a photographer and/or videographer if his/her photo(s) or video(s) is/are selected by Middlesex County NJ for placement on its website or social media platforms. By entering the contest, photographers and/or videographers also agree to allow Middlesex County NJ to feature their photo(s) and video(s) in any publication produced by Middlesex County NJ Government or any other entity. Photographers and/or Videographers also agree to allow Middlesex County NJ to display their (photos and videos) at various locations in Middlesex County NJ. By entering the contest, the photographer and/or videographer is giving Middlesex County NJ permission to use the photo(s) and videos(s) in current and future publications pertaining to Middlesex County NJ.

Photo Formats

We will only accept digital submissions in a .jpg, mp4 & mov format. Entries that are color images/videos, black and white images/videos, sepia-toned and duotone images/videos are eligible. **Minor** digital enhancement is permitted.

All photographs and videos must accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos and videos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

The entry form will accept images up to 10MG. If you are chosen as a finalist, you must be able to provide the image at no less than 300dpi at 8.5 x 11 inches. Video formats should be 1920x1080 or 1080x1920 depending on film style.

Permitted:

- Images/videos may be resized, cropped or rotated as necessary
- Red-eye removal and spot editing.
- One-step enhancement (such as "Auto Fix, "Quick Fix" "Auto Levels", etc.)
- Use of filters to sharpen, soften, blur, de-speckle, or remove noise.
- Use of corrective filters to improve the natural appearance of the image/video such as levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone hue, saturation, lightness, value, color balance and tint.

Not Permitted:

- No watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices may be added to images/videos. All winning images will be displayed with the photographer's name.

- Adding or replacing elements in an image or video is not permitted.
- Artistic filters are not permitted.
- Adding borders or frames to images or videos is not permitted.

The Judging Panel reserve the right to reject any additional entries or entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and Judging Panel decisions, which are final and binding.

If selected as a winning entry, entrants may be asked to supplement their submission (such as with the highest resolution version of their photo and/or video).

Judging

Entries will be judged anonymously on the basis of creativity, quality, composition, artistic merit, and subject matter relevant to conveying the beauty and unique character of Middlesex County, New Jersey. A panel will judge the entries and all contest decisions are final. Entries that fail to comply with the Official Rules will be disqualified. Entries may be placed or moved into appropriate categories at the sole discretion of the judges. All valid entries will be considered.

Winners

A judging committee will anonymously judge all submissions to determine the contest's overall winners. Winning photos or videos may be publicly displayed at a future County event and/or marketing materials.

Prizes

- Winning participants may receive public recognition at a Middlesex County event.
- Winning photographs and videos may be featured on Middlesex County's website, social media sites, and in future marketing or promotional materials.

Additional Terms and Conditions

Middlesex County NJ is not responsible for lost, misdirected, misplaced, illegible, unintelligible, incomplete or late entries. Proof of sending any communication to the County shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by the County. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

Middlesex County is entitled to interpret these rules as needed and its decisions are final. Middlesex County reserves the right to disqualify any entrant that Middlesex County has reason to believe is not the original work or does not meet qualifications or contest rules. All winners are subject to all requirements set forth in the Official Rules. By participating in this contest you agree to release and hold harmless Middlesex County and all its employees, officers, affiliates, agents and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest, including, but not limited to, infringement of intellectual property rights and/or privacy rights and/or damage to persons or property. Entrant waives the right to claim any attorneys' fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages. Middlesex County and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents and advertising and promotional agencies assume no responsibility for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of action, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest.