

CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area promotes cultural tourism through education, preservation, and conservation of heritage, culture, and natural resources in the six northwest Alabama counties of the Tennessee River basin: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan. The purpose of this photo contest is to celebrate and share the people and places that make MSNHA special, so photos must be taken within the six MSNHA counties. Visit the MSNHA website, msnha.una.edu, for a map of the area and a list of attractions and historic sites. The contest is open to everyone except professional photographers, MSNHA staff and members of their immediate family, and staff of the University of North Alabama.

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. Photos must be submitted by the individuals who took them. Digital photos only; please do not submit prints or negatives. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, June 15.
2. Photographers must be amateurs, meaning that the majority of their income does not come from their photographs.
3. Entry forms are available at msnha.una.edu. Email entries to msnha@una.edu with “Photo Contest Entry” in the subject line and a digital entry form for each photo submitted.
4. Format images as high-quality JPEGs or TIFFs to a minimum of 5”x7” and a resolution of at least 1024x768 dpi (or, for images taken with mobile phones, the highest dpi available). Please do not resize small files to fit requirements.
5. Minor adjustments for color, contrast, cropping, etc., are OK. Significant alterations, unnatural appearances, or added or removed elements are not.
6. For photos containing recognizable people, you must include a signed model-release form that’s available here at the website.
7. MSNHA is not responsible for entries lost or not received. Receipt will be confirmed via email.
8. Questions? Email msnha@una.edu.

JUDGING & CATEGORIES

1. An independent panel will judge entries based on category relevance, quality, content, composition, and creativity.
2. Winners will be announced on the MSNHA Facebook page no later than June 28.
3. Photos will be accepted in the following categories:
 - a. Native American Culture –Native American history in the MSNHA spans from pre-historic times to the present. Woodland Indians and later the Mississippian Indians built large earthen mounds for ceremonies and burial grounds. The Chickasaws and Cherokees were the primary tribes, with some Creeks (Muscogee) living here briefly or hunting here. Each year, the Muscle Shoals region honors Native American culture with events remembering the forced removal of tribes along the Trail of Tears in 1831-1837.

- b. Music – Northwest Alabama boasts a rich and influential musical heritage, from early handmade instruments to internationally known recording studios in the 1960s and 1970s to today’s vibrant mix of festivals, songwriters, performance venues, musicians, and artists. The region is home to “Father of the Blues” W.C. Handy, legendary producers Sam Phillips and Buddy Killen, and countless other award-winning performers.
 - c. Tennessee River – The Tennessee River brought prehistoric Native Americans and then European settlers to northwest Alabama. For years, its narrow and rocky shoals frustrated those who tried to cross it – until the twentieth century, when dams harnessed the river’s power and ushered in economic opportunities. The river created a culture and shaped a region where sites, buildings, homes, and artifacts tell the story of some of the nation’s most critical and significant moments.
 - d. Nature – The MSHNA has strikingly beautiful forest lands, lakes, streams, small mountains, and valley areas. Located along the Tennessee River are several lakes, including Bear Creek, Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler. Bankhead National Forrest and Sipsey Wilderness, known as the “Land of a Thousand Waterfalls” are in Franklin and Lawrence counties. Another example of the region’s unspoiled nature is Dismals Canyon Conservatory in Franklin County. These natural settings make it easy to study native fish, birds, and other wildlife and enjoy boating, hiking, fishing, biking, camping, and other sports and recreation.
 - e. A grand-prize winner will be chosen from all submissions.
4. The winner of each category will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate for Swampers Bar and Grille and a \$25.00 cash prize. The grand prize winner will receive a one night stay at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa and dinner for two at the 360 Grille and a \$50.00 cash prize. All winning photographs will be featured on the MSNHA website and Facebook page and perhaps in MSNA promotional materials.

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS

Photographers retain their rights to their photographs; however, by entering the contest, you grant the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotion of the heritage area, exhibition, and commercial products. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit as feasible. The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek additional approval in connection with such uses.