

## 2026 Photo Contest Guidelines

"Landmarks and Legacy" is the theme of this contest -- we're looking for photos celebrating northwest Alabama's history with a nod to America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"Here in the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, we encounter our history every day, every place we go. It's all around us, from designated historic sites to the small & hidden spaces that tell us how northwest Alabama came to be," said Jessie Johnson, MSNHA program director.

"We chose this theme for our photo contest because landmarks honor events, places and times that impacted the entire region -- or simply made a difference in one person's life," she added. "And legacies are stories and ideas passed down through generations that have taken root and made a difference in our lives today. We look forward to entrants' interpretations of the landmarks and legacies that have shaped northwest Alabama and their own lives."

Submit each entry via this [form](#). It asks for your contact info plus where & when the photo was taken and -- new this year -- an explanation of how your entry interprets the theme. What does your image say about landmarks and legacy in northwest Alabama? What does America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday mean to you? What drew you to create and capture this photo?

After you've submitted the form, feel free to post your entry on social media -- use #msnhaphotocontest26 so we can give you a like.

Judging criteria are 50% creativity, 30% quality and 20% relevance. (To inspire and challenge you, we've given creativity the most weight.) Entries should be in high-resolution with clarity and color adjusted accordingly and should reflect MSNHA's mission of protecting and promoting the Tennessee River, Indigenous culture and music in our six-county region of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan. Learn more about the MSNHA [here](#).

Deadline to enter is 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28, giving you the chance to shoot in multiple seasons.

Submit as many pics as you like as long as you include the required form with each entry.

Photos must be taken within our six-county area, and photos must have been taken within the past 18 months.

You must have written permission if you're shooting on private land and/or people in your image are recognizable.

MSNHA staff and consultants will judge the entries and we'll contact the winners. We're not sure about all the prizes but they will include cash from Florence Arts and Museums. Winning and other selected photos will be matted and displayed in a local gallery.

Questions? Email [msnha@una.edu](mailto:msnha@una.edu)