

2026 Bear Paw Festival Photography Contest Rules

Gutierrez Photography, in cooperation with Jitters, is sponsoring a juried photography competition for the 2026 Bear Paw Festival. Approximately 30 photographs will be selected for the exhibit, which will be on display at Jitters throughout the month of July 2026.

The Bear Paw Festival is held by the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. The Photography Contest is held in conjunction with Bear Paw Festival but is managed and sponsored by Gutierrez Photography. All queries about this contest should be directed to us at 907.727.1284

1. General

- a. Entries will be submitted online at <https://2025bearpawphotocontest.artcall.org/>. **Please let us know right away if you encounter any difficulties.**
- b. We will accept entries from **Tuesday, April 14th, 2026** through **Friday May 29, 2026**.
- c. Judging will take place on **Saturday, May 30, 2026**.
- d. We will notify photographers by email or telephone no later than **Monday, June 1, 2026** if any of their photographs have been selected for the exhibit.
- e. Selected photos prepared for exhibit must be delivered to Gutierrez Photography no later than 5pm on **Saturday, June 27, 2026**.
- f. The exhibit will be on display at Jitters during the month of July.
- g. We will announce the awards for each category by **Wednesday, July 1, 2026** on the Bear Paw Photography Contest Facebook Page.
- h. The public will be able to submit ballots for the "Festival Favorite" up until 5pm on **Sunday July 12th, 2026**. The Festival Favorite will be announced by the end of the day on Monday July 13th, 2026.
- i. Photographs selected for the exhibit must be picked up no later than Saturday, **August 8, 2026**. We will discard any photographs not claimed by this deadline. You may pick your photos up from Jitters on Friday, **July 31, 2026** between 4:30-5:00pm or at Gutierrez Photography **Saturday, August 1, 2026** 11:00am to 5:00pm then **Monday through Friday, August 3-7, 2026** between 11:00am and 7:00pm. If you are unable to pick up your photograph during these times other arrangements must be made ahead of time by calling Gutierrez Photography at 907.727.1284.
- j. Gutierrez Photography, Jitters and Bear Paw Festival are not responsible for any damages to prints or print framing that may occur during transport of, hanging of, or take down of the exhibit pieces.

The Bear Paw Festival is held by the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. The Photography Contest is held in conjunction with Bear Paw Festival but is managed and sponsored by Gutierrez Photography. All queries about this contest should be directed to Gutierrez Photography at 907.727.1284

2026 Bear Paw Festival Photography Contest Rules

2. Eligibility

- a. This contest is open to all photographers.
- b. Photographs that have been awarded prizes, licensed for publication, or selected for another juried photo exhibition are not eligible.
- c. **All photographs must have been taken in Alaska on or after January 1, 2025.**
- d. Photos must be suitable for viewing by general audiences. The contest committee reserves the right to disqualify photos that they deem unsuitable for general audiences.

3. Categories and Sub-Categories

- a. Each photograph must be entered into a category and sub-category
- b. The category is based on the age of the photographer
 1. **Adult** -the photographer is 18 years of age, or older, as of July 1, 2026.
 2. **Teen** -the photographer is 13-17 years of age as of July 1, 2026
 3. **Youth** – the photographer is 12 years of age or younger as of July 1, 2026. The youth category has a single sub-category: Open.
- c. Each photograph entered must be placed in one of the following sub-categories:
 1. **Eagle River** – Photographs of people, places, or events in Eagle River.
 2. **People** – Formal or informal portraits.
 3. **Scenic** – Including seascapes, landscapes, cityscapes, etc.
 4. **Fauna** – Animals: wild or domestic.
 5. **Flora** – Anything to do with plants, wild or domestic
 6. **Creative** – Heavily post-processed, modified, or images using unusual techniques (i.e. Photoshop, multiple exposures, multiple prints, selective coloration).
 7. **Open** – Youth category submissions will not be broken down into separate sub-categories to keep it simple for this age group.
- d. Black and white photographs may be entered in any category and sub-category.

4. Preparation for Submission for Judging

- a. We will accept entries beginning **Tuesday April 14th, 2026.**
- b. All images must be submitted using the online entry page located at this address: <https://2025bearpawphotocontest.artcall.org/>
 1. Submit one JPEG (JPG) file for each photograph entered.
 2. The file must be 4mb or less in size.
 3. The long edge of the photograph should be between 1920px and 3600px.

The Bear Paw Festival is held by the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. The Photography Contest is held in conjunction with Bear Paw Festival but is managed and sponsored by Gutierrez Photography. All queries about this contest should be directed to Gutierrez Photography at 907.727.1284

2026 Bear Paw Festival Photography Contest Rules

- c. No identifying marks such as a name, signature, watermark, or logo may appear on the photograph submitted for judging.
- d. It is permissible to place a title on the image so long as the title in no way identifies the photographer. A title is not mandatory.
- e. The fee for the first photograph submitted is \$10.00. Additional photographs are \$7.50 each.
- f. You may enter up to 100 photographs in the contest.
- g. Entries that do not comply with these guidelines or the eligibility requirements will be disqualified and not selected for display. Disqualified entries are not eligible for a refund.
- h. The submission webpage includes detailed instructions on how to submit photographs.

5. Selection and Prizes

- a. Not all entries will be included in the exhibit.
- b. Depending on the number and quality of entries, we will select three or four photographs for each category and sub-category for the exhibit.
- c. We will award cash prizes to first and second place in each sub-categories for each category and give recognition for Festival Favorite along with Winner and Runner-Up.
- d. All judging decisions are final.

6. Preparation for Display in the Exhibit

- a. Photographs selected for inclusion in the exhibit must be prepared in one of the following ways:
 - 1. Framed – use a sturdy metal or wood frame. Glazing is not required. However, any glazing material (Plexiglas, acrylic, glass) is acceptable should the photographer decide to use glazing in the frame. The color and style of the frame and matting for the print is at the discretion of the photographer.
 - 2. Metal Prints
 - 3. Canvas Prints
- b. Attach a wire hanger sturdy enough to support the piece however you choose to mount and frame it. **Do not use clips, hooks, eyelets, saw tooth hangers, or any other similar hardware.** This is to decrease risk of damage and a requirement of management at Jitters.
- c. Identifying marks, signatures, watermarks, and logos are permitted on either the print or mat.
- d. Photographers are permitted and encouraged to sell their displayed works.

2026 Bear Paw Festival Photography Contest Rules

1. Jitters will handle the sales transaction and will charge a 25% commission.
2. Photographers should consider the material costs (print, matt, frame), profit, and commission in setting the price for photographs they choose to sell.
- e. Photographers must deliver their ready to hang printed and framed photographs to Gutierrez Photography between **June 22-27, 2026**. Hours are from 11am to 7pm, Monday through Friday – note on June 27th, must be dropped NLT 5pm. Call 907.727.1284 Monday through Friday 11am to 7pm to make other arrangements if needed.

7. Responsibility of Photographs

- a. No person affiliated with Gutierrez Photography, Jitters, Bear Paw Festival or this contest will be responsible for lost or damaged photographs.
- b. Damage to the framed photograph may occur during exhibition of photographs. This is to be expected and is considered an anticipated hazard for all submissions.

8. For more information

- Contact Gutierrez Photography (907) 727-1284 Monday through Friday, 10am to 7pm.