



Lake Metroparks presents

39th annual

AMATEUR



photography contest

ENTRIES ACCEPTED beginning May 1, 2026 at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center, 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland. Entries can be submitted and payment made at the Information Desk from 9 am to 4:00 pm daily.

ENTRY DEADLINE is 4:00 pm, May 31, 2026. Entry form and payment must accompany entries.

DIVISIONS are Adult and Junior (ages 14 and younger).

ENTRY FEE is \$5 per print for adults, \$3 per print for juniors (ages 14 and younger). Cash in the EXACT amount or personal check (made out to Lake Metroparks) accepted.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES Adults may submit a maximum of **three photographs** in the contest; Juniors (ages 14 and younger) may enter a maximum of **three** photos in the contest. **No more than one photograph may be submitted by anyone in a single category.**

OPENING RECEPTION and awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 1:30 pm at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded. Light refreshments will be served.

PRIZES are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Best of Show winners. Ribbons are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Honorable Mention winners in each category. All winners are determined by independent contest judges.

EXHIBIT of all qualifying entries will be on display Saturday, June 6 through Sunday, August 2, 2026 in Penitentiary Glen Nature Center.

CATEGORIES: Photos can be either film or digital. **No more than one photograph may be submitted in a single category.**

1. LANDMARKS OF LAKE METROPARKS– Color photos in this category should highlight a unique natural aspect of a particular park, i.e., a waterfall, the gorge, rock formations, etc., OR a unique man-made feature within the park, i.e., a bridge, sculpture, building or other architecture, etc. The park location must be clearly identified on the photo ID label.

2. LAKE ERIE– Color photographs for this category should focus on the lake and its shoreline and may include people, architecture, and boats as they relate to the lake.

3. WILDLIFE– This category is for color photos that feature wildlife such as birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. *Note: Domestic animals do not qualify for this category.

4. LANDSCAPE– Color photos in this category should feature scenic images of nature. Photos may include animals or architecture as they relate to the landscape.

5. FLORAL– Flowers are the primary focus of this color photo category and may include insects and/or animals as they relate to the flower.

6. BLACK & WHITE– Any black and white photo MUST be entered in this category. Subject matter can depict any of the specified categories listed above.

NOTE: ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN THE OUT-OF-DOORS WITHIN LAKE COUNTY.



Contest Rules & Regulations

1. All photographs must remain on exhibit at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center, 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd., Kirtland, through the conclusion of the exhibit on Sunday, August 2, 2026. **Contestants must pick up their entries from Penitentiary Glen Nature Center August 3–31, 2026 between 9 am and 4:30 pm daily. Lake Metroparks will not be responsible for photographs not picked up by August 31.**

2. The Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers only. A professional is defined as one whose primary source of income (50% or more) results from his/her photographic work.

3. Photographic images (**before matting**) must be a minimum of 5 x 7 inches and not exceed 11 x 16 inches. **Note: Matted panoramic images cannot exceed 27" total width.**

4. All photographs must be individually matted with a single white mat—no double matting. See page 4 of document on how to mat a photo. Photos cannot be framed. The photographer's name, watermark, or text of any kind CANNOT appear on the front. **Failure to comply with this rule will cause photos to be disqualified.**

5. A **"Photograph Identification Form"** (attached) must be securely attached to the lower right corner on the back of each entry. Additionally, the contestant's name, address and phone number should be clearly printed directly on the back of each entry. Contestants must submit a completed entry form (attached) with entry fee and photograph(s).

6. **Photos will be judged on depiction of category, technical quality, composition and originality.** The independent judges' decisions are final.

7. Lake Metroparks reserves the right to combine categories in the event of insufficient entries in order to preserve the integrity of the contest. All categories may not necessarily receive sequential awards.

8. **Only work not previously entered in the Lake Metroparks' Annual Amateur Photography Contest will be accepted.** Lake Metroparks reserves the right to disqualify any photograph not properly mounted, not taken in the out-of-doors, or that does not meet the entry/category requirements. Lake Metroparks also reserves the right and authority to reject any photograph(s) that may seem objectionable to participants and/or visitors.

9. It is the sole responsibility of the photographer to secure permission from any person or persons appearing in his/her photo(s). Any photograph entered in this contest may be used, without charge, in future Lake Metroparks publications or promotions. Photo credit will be given for all photos used.

10. All reasonable caution will be exercised with all photographs; however, Lake Metroparks is not responsible for any damage or loss that may occur. Due to the nature of the show, Velcro will be used in hanging the photographs. Photo Title Cards will be mounted below each photo after the judging has taken place.

QUESTIONS? Call 440-256-1404 for clarification of rules or categories.

HOW TO ENTER

1. Read all of the contest rules and information carefully.
2. Type or clearly print the requested information in ink (forms on next page).
3. Secure a "Photograph Identification Form" to the lower right corner on the back of each entry.
4. Submit properly identified photograph(s), completed entry form(s) and entry fee(s) (in exact change) to Lake Metroparks by the entry deadline.

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Photo Labels

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION FORM	PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION FORM	PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION FORM
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Division (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (14 yrs. and younger)	Division (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (14 yrs. and younger)	Division (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (14 yrs. and younger)
Category (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Landmarks of Lake Metroparks <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Erie <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Floral <input type="checkbox"/> Black & White	Category (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Landmarks of Lake Metroparks <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Erie <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Floral <input type="checkbox"/> Black & White	Category (please mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Landmarks of Lake Metroparks <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Erie <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Floral <input type="checkbox"/> Black & White
Photo Title _____	Photo Title _____	Photo Title _____
Location _____	Location _____	Location _____



Photo Contest Entry Form

All entries must be received by 4:00 pm, Sunday, May 31, 2026. Include entry fee(s) in exact change or personal check with this form.

(Include this with your entry fee)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

DIVISION (check one)

Adults (15 years and older): Total number of photographs entered in contest (max. 3) _____ X \$5 ea = \$ _____

Junior (14 years and younger): Total number of photographs entered in contest (max. 3) _____ X \$3 ea = \$ _____

CIRCLE ONE:
cash / check

Total \$ _____

I have read and understand the contest rules and regulations. The submission of my photograph(s) along with my signature below implies the acceptance of all conditions printed.

Signature _____ Date _____

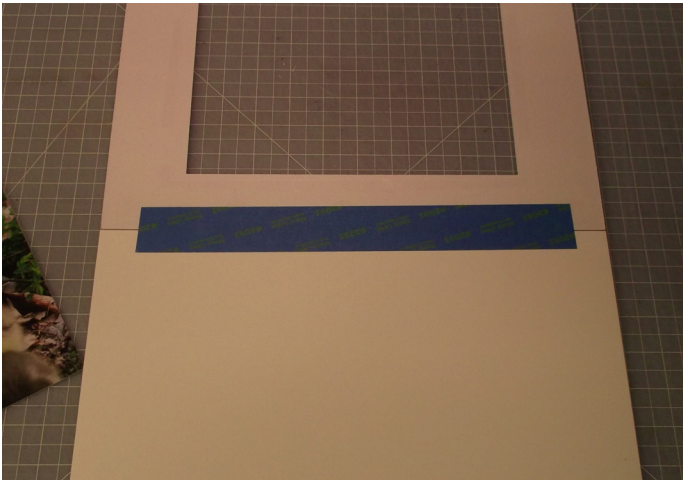
How to Mat a Photograph



1. Basic supplies: white pre-cut mat, backing board (cardboard or other), photo, photo label, assorted tape.



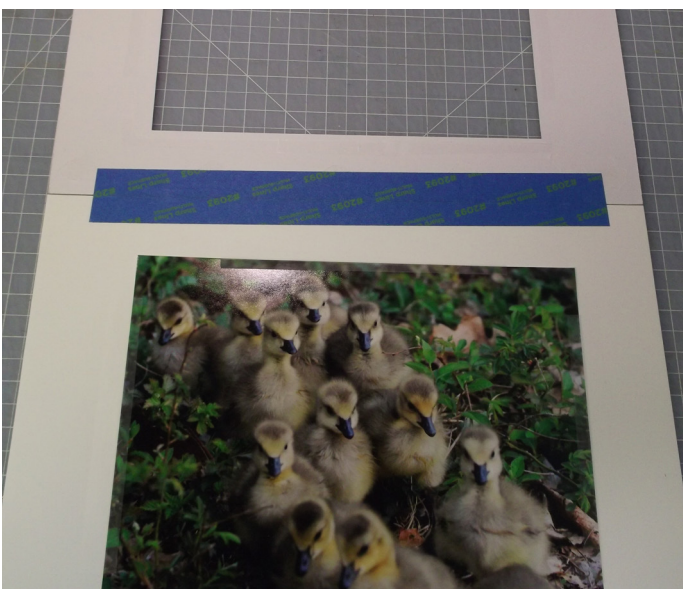
4. Fold the mat down to frame the photo.



2. Hinge mat to backing board using a heavy tape.



5. Flip matted photo over and affix label to the bottom right using Scotch tape.



3. Affix photo to backing board using Scotch tape or photo corners.

Questions on matting your photo?

Contact the Photo Contest Coordinator at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center at 440-256-1404 x2123 or email wpittenger@lakemetroparks.com.