

First Hike Fairfax 2025 Photo Contest Rules

SUBMISSIONS

- **Photo must be taken on a Fairfax County Park Authority trail on January 1, 2025.** Entrants may be asked to validate location if selected as a winner. Photos taken on non-Park Authority trails or at other county locations will not be included in the photo contest.
- Submissions must be made online. A link will be posted at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike by 7 a.m. on January 1, 2025.
- Submissions will be accepted between 7 a.m. on Wednesday, January 1, and noon on Thursday, January 2.
- Photos must be in JPG, JPEG, or PNG formats.
- Photo must be less than 16MB (preferred maximum file size is 5 MB).
- Photos showing violation of park rules (i.e., leash law violations, off-trails, after park closing hours, etc.) or local county ordinances/laws will not be included in photo contest.
- No more than one photo submission per person will be accepted.
- Contest open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages.
- Photos posted to social media with hashtag #FirstHikeFairfax are welcome but will not be accepted as contest entry.
- Photos may include landscape, wildlife, persons, pets, or any other aspects of a trail/hike.
- Minor digital enhancement for cropping, red-eye removal, filters and corrective functions are permitted, but images to be judged are not to be altered in any significant manner or they will be disqualified. Contestants are not permitted to place borders, frames or backgrounds around their images nor place watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright images onto photos.
- All contest and photo participants must follow all park facility and trail rules. For information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rules.
- By submitting a photo, entrant agrees to the below photo release:
I agree to give the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Park Foundation non-exclusive rights to my photo including but not limited to advertising, websites, social media, promotions, communications, publications, media relations and commercial resale use. Photo credit and compensation will not be granted except as stated above. Contestants retain their own usage rights. I also acknowledge that I have permission from all people in the photograph for the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Park Foundation to use the photo as stated above.

PRIZES

Director's Choice, Judges' Choice and Best in Show awards will be announced on January 9, 2025.

The voting link for the People's Choice Award will be posted by January 9, 2025, and will remain open until 5 p.m. on January 14, 2025. Winners will be announced by January 16, 2024. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- **Director's Choice:** Selected by FCPA Authority Executive Director: \$100 Park Authority Gift Card
- **Judges' Choice:** \$100 Park Authority Gift Card
- **Best in Show (Scenery/Landscapes):** \$75 Park Authority Gift Card
- **Best in Show (People):** \$75 Park Authority Gift Card
- **Best in Show (Wildlife):** \$75 Park Authority Gift Card
- **Best in Show (Pet):** \$75 Park Authority Gift Card
- **People's Choice:** Winner from public vote* on top photos (as selected by judges): \$100 Park Authority Gift Card