

# FRIENDS OF STEELE CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PARK

## 2026 Wildlife Weekend Amateur Photography Contest and Show

### Rules and Instructions

**All photographs must be submitted digitally**, by e-mail sent to [photos@friendsofsteelecreek.org](mailto:photos@friendsofsteelecreek.org). The e-mail with each entry (or group of entries) must include the photographer's name and preferred e-mail address. Each photograph should be identified with a title. Entries may be submitted beginning Monday, August 3, 2026; deadline for photo and application form submissions is 11:59 pm, Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Each entrant must certify that they have read and agree with these contest rules. **Please complete the form (found on page 2 of this document) and return it by scanning and e-mailing it with one of the photos, or by mailing it to Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park, P.O. Box 1763, Bristol, TN 37621. ALTERNATIVELY, you may complete and sign the form using our convenient and secure Photo Contest portal.**

Entrants must have full rights to any photographs submitted. Photographs may not have been previously published and may not have won any previous contest. ***Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park ("Friends") will retain non-exclusive rights to use the images for educational, promotional and/or fundraising purposes without obtaining further permission and/or providing compensation to the photographers.***

Each entrant is limited to a total of 10 photographs. The photos must have been taken within the boundaries of Steele Creek Park, and should focus on the natural aspects of the Park. **Photo files must be submitted in jpg or png format.** Each file must be **at least 1 MB** in size (or have a resolution of at least 1000 x 1000 pixels). The images must not have watermarks, logos, or other features that could be used to identify the photographer.

There are two divisions for submissions: Adult and Youth. Youth must be younger than 16 as of October 1, 2026 (i.e. birth date after October 1, 2010).

To be eligible for cash prizes, an entrant may not derive more than 10% of their income from work as a photographer and may not regularly compete in and/or have photographs accepted for exhibition in other regional (i.e. beyond the Tri Cities region), national, or international competitions. The following individuals may submit entries, but are ineligible for prizes: *Friends* Board members and their immediate family members, Nature Center staff and their immediate family members, and jurors and their immediate family members.

**To be eligible for cash prizes each entrant must pay an entry fee of \$10, which must be received by *Friends* no later than September 16, 2026.** Up to 10 photos may be submitted for the single \$10 entry fee. Payment may be made by using our secure [online Photo Contest portal](#) **OR** by check payable to *Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center* (designated for "Photo Contest") and mailed to *Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center*, P.O. Box 1763, Bristol, TN 37621.

Cash prizes will be awarded for one or more photographs in each division for which there are sufficient submissions (i.e. a total of at least 10 photographs submitted by at least 3 photographers in the division). The value of the award(s) will be determined prior to the judging, based in part on the number of entries in each division. In any event, the minimum prize amounts for first place will be \$50 for the adult division and \$25 for the youth division. Additional prizes, ribbons and certificates may also be awarded. **Photographs will be judged on general interest, creativity, and technical quality.** Jurors will be professional or experienced amateur photographers from the local community. All decisions made by the jurors will be final.

All submissions will be displayed online and electronically at The Nature Center during Wildlife Weekend 2026. Prize winning entries will be printed (by *Friends*) and displayed as prints during and after Wildlife Weekend. Winners will be announced at Wildlife Weekend on Friday evening, October 9.

**FRIENDS OF STEELE CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PARK  
2026 WILDLIFE WEEKEND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST  
APPLICATION FORM**

**Each photographer must sign and submit one application form \***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of entries ☐ Adult ☐ Youth (Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_)

By signing below I certify that:

- 1) I have read and agree to the published rules of the contest;
- 2) the photographs submitted by me were taken within the confines of Steele Creek Park;
- 3) the photographs submitted by me have not previously been published or won any contest;
- 4) I own the full rights to the submitted pictures;
- 5) I do not derive more than 10% of my income from work as a photographer and do not *regularly* compete in or have photographs accepted for exhibition *outside of the Tri Cities area* in regional, national, or international competitions;
- 6) I understand that *Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park* ("Friends") may use the submitted images for educational, promotional or fundraising purposes without my further permission and without compensation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Youth Category submissions only)

\* Please complete, sign, and submit this application **no later than Wednesday, September 16, 2026** by scanning and e-mailing to [photos@friendsofstelecreek.org](mailto:photos@friendsofstelecreek.org) or by mailing it to *Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park*, P.O. Box 1763, Bristol, TN 37621. **ALTERNATIVELY**, you may complete the application form and pay the entry fee online using our secure [online Photo Contest portal](#).

**To be eligible for cash prizes, entry fee of \$10 (for up to 10 photos submitted) must be received no later than 9/16/26!**