

2026 Wildlife Photography Contest and Exhibit at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Showcase your photography skills in the 2026 Wildlife Photography Contest and Exhibit, hosted by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center. This annual contest highlights Utah's wildlife through the work of both amateur and professional photographers.

Entries will be on exhibit at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center from June 24–27, 2026, during the center's open hours: **Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Application deadline: Entries will be accepted in person at the center — during its open hours — until **4 p.m. on June 15**. Additionally, entries can be mailed to 1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025. Entries received after 4 p.m. on June 15 will not be considered.

- The photographer's name, phone number, email address and photograph title must be written on or affixed to the back of each photo entered.
- Each photo entered must be accompanied by a 2026 Wildlife Photography Contest Submission Form (see next page).

Categories: Entries may be submitted in the following subject categories, each with amateur and professional divisions.

- Big game species (e.g., deer, elk, moose, bison)
- Birds (e.g., waterfowl, songbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey)
- Reptiles and amphibians (e.g., snakes, lizards, frogs)
- Great Salt Lake (e.g., water, recreation, landscape)

Judging and criteria: A panel of judges will score all entries on June 23. Entries will be judged on technical quality, composition, creativity, subject impact and ethical practices. For example, judges may look at overall execution, sharpness, lighting, framing, perspective, animal behavior and adherence to ethical wildlife practices.

Winners: Winners for first, second and third place will be selected in each category for both the professional and amateur divisions. Among the first-place winners, three overall winners will be chosen. Additionally, a separate People's Choice Award will be determined through public voting during the exhibit. All winners will be notified via email. Each category winner will receive a ribbon, while the overall winners and the People's Choice Award recipient will receive a plaque, and their photographs may be showcased at the education center and/or the DWR building at the Utah State Fairpark.

Submission requirements:

- One entry per category.
- Photos must be taken in Utah.
- Minimum resolution is 300 DPI.
- Photographs must be at least 10 inches on the shortest side and no more than 15 inches on the longest side. Standard print sizes are recommended (e.g., 11 x 14 inches or 12 x 15 inches).
- Photographs must be mounted on a backing board (cardboard or foam core); frames are not allowed.



2026 Wildlife Photography Contest — Submission Form

Photographer information

Full name (print): _____

Preferred photo credit (if different than above): _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Check one:

- ☐ Amateur — I pursue photography as a hobby or personal interest, but I do not earn income from photography.
- ☐ Professional — I earn income from photography, work professionally in the field or have significant professional photography experience.

Photograph information

Title of the photograph: _____

Location where photograph was captured: _____

Category (select one):

- ☐ Big game species
- ☐ Birds
- ☐ Reptiles and amphibians
- ☐ Great Salt Lake

Photo release

By signing this submission form, I grant the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) permission to display my photograph during the 2026 Wildlife Photography Contest & Exhibit at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center. If my photograph is selected as a first-place winner, overall winner or People's Choice Award winner, I will provide the DWR with a digital copy of the photograph by July 31, 2026, and grant the DWR the right to use and publish the image in any format or medium, provided photographer credit is given. I also authorize the DWR to share and distribute the photograph to the public for marketing, promotional or educational purposes. I certify that this photograph is my original work and that I have the right to submit it. I understand that I will not receive any financial compensation or royalties from the DWR for the use of my photograph.

Age and guardian acknowledgment (select one):

- ☐ I am 18 years of age or older.
- ☐ I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor listed below and have the legal authority to grant permission on their behalf.

If you selected guardian, list the minor's full name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

