

## **Official Photo Contest Rules**

### **2015 Environmental Challenge Photo Contest**

#### **Contest Sponsor**

The 2015 Environmental Challenge Photo Contest is sponsored by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa.

#### **Description of Contest Objectives**

The U.S. Embassy would like to mark this year's World Environment Day (June 5) with an environmental challenge photo contest to create awareness regarding environmental challenges. Submitted photos need to depict the environmental challenge observed by the contestant in his/her area. (See the "Eligibility" section below to find out who is eligible to be a contestant.)

#### **Platform**

The winner and two runners-up will be announced at an event on June 17. Events from this contest may also be announced and promoted on various Social Media platforms including Facebook, but contest entry and administration will take place through personal submission in hard copy to the Embassy. Contest winners may also be announced on the Embassy Facebook and Twitter pages; however Facebook and Twitter are not partners or sponsors of the contest. Contestants are reminded that by participating in the contest and sending photos to the Embassy they are bound by any agreement contained therein.

#### **How to Enter**

All entries must be submitted to the U.S. Embassy in person. If you are outside Addis Ababa you can send your photos to:

U.S. Embassy  
Public Affairs Section  
Entoto Road  
PO Box 1014  
Addis Ababa

Once a photograph is submitted, it is considered a final submission and contestants will not have a chance to modify, edit, or replace. Individual contestants may submit no more than one photo.

Participation in this contest is deemed as acceptance of these Official Contest Rules.

A submission must be an original photograph taken by the contestant.

A contestant must answer the following in English in a separate paper and attach it with the photo in an envelope during submission to the Embassy.

- Contestant full name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact address:
  - Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Home or Office Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- The photo title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Location where the photograph was taken: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name/names of any person/s in the photograph (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

The Contest commences on May 6, 2015 and ends June 4, 2015 at 11:00am. Judging begins on June 8, 2015 and ends on June 12, 2015.

### **Content Requirements**

- a. Submissions must not contain obscenity, explicit sexual material, nudity, profanity, graphic violence, calls or incitement to violence, commercial solicitation or commercial promotion. Submissions must conform to local law and must not contain content or images that could be considered abusive, inflammatory, denigrating, or disrespectful to any of the Contest Sponsors, or to any groups, individuals or institutions. Submissions must adhere both in appearance and in fact to the norms of civil discourse. In other words, the content of all submissions must be suitable for a global, public audience.
- b. Submissions must be original content created by the contestant and must not contain any elements that are protected by someone else's copyright or otherwise subject to third party intellectual property or proprietary rights, including privacy and publicity rights (except as expressly permitted below in (d)). Contest Sponsors recognize no allowance for "fair use" of copyrighted material, nor do Contest Sponsors recognize allowance for use of licensed materials created or owned by a third party.
- c. Contest Sponsors reserve the right to disqualify, at their sole and absolute discretion, any submission that does not adhere to these criteria and to the intent and substance of these Official Contest Rules.
- d. In the event of any question or difference of views regarding compliance with, interpretation, or application of these content requirements or other provisions of these Official Contest Rules, Contest Sponsors reserve the exclusive right to resolve such questions or differences of views in their sole discretion.
- e. By submitting a photograph to the contest, the contestant affirms that he or she has obtained written consent from all individuals whose image or likeness appears in the photograph (or from the individuals' parent/legal guardian if any such individuals are considered a minor in their country of residence), and that he or she has obtained the necessary rights, licenses, consents, and permissions to use all material such as music, images, text and other content in the submission. The contestant further affirms that he or she is prepared to provide reliable documentation of any and all such consents, licenses, etc., upon request. Failure to obtain such rights, license consents, and permissions may result in the disqualification of the photo submission at the Contest Sponsors' sole and absolute discretion.

f. Technical Format Requirements

Photo submissions must be in hard copy, printed in photo paper and sized A5 (15cm X 21cm) in full color. Submissions should not have any visible watermarks, signatures, or personally identifiable information.

Retouching of Photos: The submitted photograph cannot be significantly retouched: nothing in the photograph (people, animals, scenery, objects, etc.) may be altered, removed, augmented or rearranged. Cropping is permitted, as is modest darkening or lightening of parts of the image.

**Eligibility**

- a. Contest is open to anyone interested without any age limit. Parental or legal guardian consent is required for individuals under the age of 18. Contestants must be nationalities and residents of Ethiopia only and may not be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- b. The individual submitting the entry will be considered the contestant and will be the only individual eligible to compete for the prize. Organizations are not eligible to compete for the prize, either as an entity, or through representation by an individual. In order to be eligible for the prize, the contestant must provide complete and accurate information.
- c. The following individuals are not eligible to participate in the contest: Employees, interns, directors, and officers of the Contest Sponsors, or the U.S. Government; or any employees, interns, directors, or officers of any agencies, companies or entities involved in the administration, advertising, judging, creation, development, execution, and/or fulfillment of this contest, and the immediate family members (defined as spouse, recognized partner, parent, child, sibling, and spouse or "step" of each) and those living in the same household of each such individual.
- d. Once a submission has been accepted for entry into the contest, the contestant's name (or User ID, if the contestant wishes to remain anonymous) may be publicly identified at the sole discretion of the contestant.

**Selection of Winners**

- a. All photos are subject to pre-screening by Contest Sponsor to ensure compliance with these Official Contest Rules. Any photos out of compliance will not be eligible. Contest Sponsor reserve the right in its sole and absolute discretion to verify in the final analysis whether a potential finalist or potential winning photo submission has fully complied with these Official Contest Rules before posting to the contest site, awarding prize, recognizing a winner, etc.
- b. Judges: The contest jury is comprised of two photography professionals and two staff members of the U.S. Embassy.
- c. Judging Criteria: The contest consists of three (3) rounds of evaluation. The judges will use the same Judging Criteria in each round. The top candidates in Round One will proceed to Round Two and then Round Three. Below are the judging criteria:

- i. Extent to which the Photograph conveys a sense of environmental challenge (50%)
  - ii. Artistic value of the photograph (30%)
  - iii. Photographic Quality (20%)
- d. Winners: Each winner and/or finalist will be requested to sign and return to Contest Sponsors a statement of eligibility and liability/publicity release, and provide a short bio (where applicable), and a brief statement about the submission during the event to announce the winners ; otherwise the winners and/or finalists will be ineligible for any prize. Winners and finalists may choose to use an alias instead of their real name and may request other identifying information be kept private.
- e. All contestants will be invited to attend the event organized to announce the winner on June 17.

### **Prize**

One (1) Grand Prize Winner, one (1) Second Place Winner, and one (1) Third Place Winner will be selected and awarded with cash and certificates. Chances of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received and skill of the entrants.

Winning photographs may be displayed on the U.S. Embassy's website, social media properties and/or in the Embassy itself.

### **Liability and Rights**

- a. Contest Sponsors do not endorse any submissions or messages expressed therein, and Contest Sponsors expressly disclaim any and all liability in connection with the submitted photos including disputes between collaborators related to a submission.
- b. The contest and its sponsors do not permit copyright infringing activities or infringement of any other intellectual property rights, and Contest Sponsors reserve the right to remove and disqualify any submission they deem to be in violation of another party's copyright or other intellectual property rights.
- c. Contestants retain sole ownership of their original work. The submission remains the intellectual property of the contestant, and the Contest Sponsor and U.S. Government make no claim of copyright as to the work of any individual who enters the contest. Contestant specifically agrees to give the Contest Sponsors permission to use all content submitted for purposes of judging the contest. Finalists and/or winners will be required to grant Contest Sponsors, with proper attribution through whatever means they deem appropriate, a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, sub-licensable and transferable license to use, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works of, and/or display the submission in any media formats and through any media channels in perpetuity in connection with the activities and operations of the contest.
- d. Contestant assumes sole responsibility for the contest submission and the material contained in it, and for any consequences of submitting it.

- e. Contest Sponsors reserve the right at any time to verify the validity of entries and of contestants and to disqualify any contestant or entry deemed not in compliance with these Official Contest Rules. Contest Sponsors also reserve the right to request further documentation, at their sole and absolute discretion, to verify eligibility and compliance with these Official Contest Rules.
- f. If a prize or any portion thereof is unavailable, Contest Sponsors, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to substitute the prize with another prize of equal or greater value and/or specification.
- g. Contest Sponsors reserve the right, at any time and in their sole discretion, to disqualify and/or deem ineligible any individual who they reasonably believe (i) has violated the Official Contest Rules; (ii) has violated the terms of use of platform, or (iii) is acting in a bad faith, or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person.
- h. Contest Sponsors reserve the right to modify, suspend, terminate or cancel the contest at their discretion for any reason.
- i. Contestant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Contest Sponsors, their parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, officers, directors, employees, interns, and agents, from and against any and all claims, damages, obligations, losses, liabilities, costs or debts, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees) arising from (i) violation of these Official Contest Rules; (ii) violation of any third party right, including without limitation any copyright, trademark, intellectual property, privacy, publicity, or other proprietary right in connection with the contest; or (iii) any claim that a contest submission caused any harm, including financial, to any third party. These indemnification and hold harmless obligations will survive indefinitely beyond the conclusion of the contest.
- j. The conduct, judging, and awarding of prizes will be carried out in full compliance with applicable U.S. law and host country law. In the event of a conflict between U.S. law and host country law, U.S. law shall apply.
- k. Contest Sponsors and the U.S. Government will take reasonable measures to protect privacy data, personally identifiable information, and other sensitive data of contestants. Contact information provided by contestants may be stored by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and may be used to contact contestants for other purposes in the future.
- l. Contest Sponsors are not liable in the event that any portion of the contest is cancelled or delayed due to weather, fire, strike, acts of war or terrorism, or any other reason.

If you have questions please contact:

Ms. Emnet Mekoya at [mekoyaes@state.gov](mailto:mekoyaes@state.gov) or call at 011-130-7612/7033