



2025

Indian River Lagoon Photo Contest Entry Requirements and Contest Rules

The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program is seeking lagoon-related photographs for publication in its *2025 Indian River Lagoon Calendar*. Five broad categories of photos will be accepted: “Working and Playing on the Lagoon”, “Lagoon Plants and Animals”, “Scenic”, "Living Lagoon-Friendly", and “Volunteering to Help the Lagoon”.

The following guidelines will be considered by the judging panel when choosing photographs for inclusion in the calendar:

1. All images must have been taken within the Indian River Lagoon region, including its tributaries, from High Bridge Rd. in Volusia County to Jupiter Inlet in Palm Beach County.
2. A total of three entries may be submitted per photographer.
3. All images must feature some aspect of the Indian River Lagoon or its watershed. Coastal beach photos, surfing photos, etc., are not eligible.
4. All images must be in landscape (horizontal) format.
5. All digital images must be of publication quality (see the Digital Images section below).

Submittal checklist: Each entry must include the following:

- _____ A completed and signed entry form for each photo submitted.
- _____ A photo digitally submitted to hill@irlcouncil.org or mailed to the address on the entry form. If submitting by mail, please include a CD or thumbdrive of all photos being submitted.
- _____ A signed model release for all persons recognizable in the photograph.

Failure to meet all criteria will disqualify any entry from judging.

Digital images:

- Preferred file size is 300 dots per inch (dpi) with a total file size between 12–17 megabytes (mb). This equates to an image approximately 8” X 10” or larger in either .tif or .jpg format.
 - To achieve this resolution on most digital cameras, image quality must be set to “fine,” “high quality” (HQ) or “super high quality” (SHQ or .tif) at the time the photo is taken.
- Minimum file size is 300 dpi with a total file size of 9 mb. This equates to an image approximately 5” X 7” in either .tif or .jpg format.

- Digital photographs should not be compressed; and **may not be altered** beyond adjustment of brightness, contrast and sharpness.
 - Note that it is permissible to enhance the appearance of a digital photo through techniques such as high-dynamic range imaging (HDRI), in which images are digitally manipulated but remain true to the subject. Creating digital art through the addition or deletion of elements from a photograph, or otherwise manipulating or altering the original subject matter is not permissible. Digital creations will not be considered for judging.

Use of photos:

By entering this contest, the contestant warrants that the image submitted is his or her original work and that he or she is the owner of the image. While contestants retain all rights to their images, contestant must grant permission for unrestricted use of the image to the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, IRL Council, or its designee, to utilize the image in future publications, educational exhibits and on the Internet to promote the functions and values of the Indian River Lagoon. Release signatures of any recognizable persons in a photograph, other than the photographer, will also be required.

Judging:

Decisions of the judges are final. Winners will be contacted after judging is complete in September, 2024. Twelve winning images will be featured as monthly photos in the 2025 Indian River Lagoon Calendar, with the overall winning image featured on the calendar cover. Other images will be featured in the calendar as runners up.

Deadline:

All contest entries must be received or postmarked by August 9, 2024.

Model release:

Any recognizable person appearing in a photo must sign a model release (see below) granting the photographer permission to use their likeness. Children under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian sign the release on their behalf.

MODEL RELEASE

I, _____ (print model name) hereby grant permission to
 _____ (print photographer name) to use my
 photographic likeness and/or name to enter an image in the Indian River Lagoon Photo Contest.

Signature: _____ Date: _____.

Models under 18: I, _____ am the legal
 parent/guardian of the individual named above. I have read this release and approve of its terms.

Signature: _____ Date: _____.



2025 Indian River Lagoon Photo Contest Official Entry Form

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Title of photograph: _____

Location where photo was taken: (MUST be within the Indian River Lagoon area):

Other information about the photo that you would like to share: _____

Photographer release

I agree with the contest rules and grant the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, IRL Council, or its designee as stated in contest rules, permission for unrestricted use of my image for future publications, exhibits, and on the Internet to promote the functions and values of the Indian River Lagoon.

I warrant that I am the owner of the image being submitted. I agree to provide release signatures of any recognizable person(s) in the image, other than the photographer. I further certify that the image submitted is an original photograph, is not digitally altered beyond adjustment of brightness, contrast and sharpness, and has not had elements either added to or deleted from the original image.

Name (print): _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

All entries must be submitted by August 9, 2024.

**Submit digital entries
to:**
hill@irlcouncil.org

Submit entries by mail to:
IRL Council
Attn: Kathy Hill
1235 Main St.
Sebastian, FL 32958

For more information and/or questions, contact Kathy Hill at 321.536.6039.