



## Orkney Nature Festival Photography Competition 2026

### Information for Participants

#### 1. Overview

The Orkney Nature Festival Photography Competition celebrates the beauty, diversity, and uniqueness of Orkney's natural environment. Photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to submit original images taken within the Orkney Islands.

#### 2. Competition Categories

Entries may be submitted to the following categories:

- Natural Landscapes of Orkney
- Terrestrial Animals of Orkney
- Marine Animals of Orkney
- Plants of Orkney
- Under 18 Natural Landscapes of Orkney
- Under 18 Species of Orkney

#### 3. Eligibility

The competition is open to all photographers.

Entrants in the Under 18 Categories must be under 18 years old on 31st July 2026

Entrants under 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian.

Entries must be submitted between 11th May and 31st July 2026 (inclusive).

Photographs must be taken within the Orkney Islands.

Photographs must include local animals/plants, not non-native or domesticated species.

Photographs should have been taken within the past 2 years (after 31st July 2024).

Entrants may be local to Orkney or visitors to the area.

#### 4. Entry Requirements

Entries will be accepted between 11th May 2026 and 31st July 2026.

Entry to the competition is free - no payment is required for entry.

Each entrant may submit up to 3 photographs per category. Only the first three entries will be accepted; all others will be rejected.

Images must be the original work of the entrant.

Photographs should be submitted in digital format (JPEG), with a minimum size of 2000 pixels on the longest edge (to allow for reproduction).

Basic editing (cropping, exposure, colour correction) is permitted, but no AI-generated images or major digital manipulation that alters the natural scene will be accepted. For winners, a copy of the original file may be needed for inspection purposes.

Entries must not include watermarks, borders, or logos, to ensure they can be judged anonymously.

## **5. Submission Process**

Entries must be submitted via an online form, linked on the Orkney Nature Festival Website, for the duration of the competition.

Each submission must include:

- Photographer's name
- Contact details
- Category entered
- Title of image
- Location within Orkney where the image was taken
- Name of species (if entering Terrestrial Animal, Marine Animal, Plant, or Under 18 Species Categories only)
- Date on which image was taken (must be after 31st July 2024)
- Confirmation of age (if entering the Under 18 category)

## **6. Judging Criteria**

Entries will be judged by a pre-selected panel based on:

- Creativity and originality
- Composition
- Relevance to category
- Representation of Orkney's natural environment

If a high number of images are provided, a shortlist will be compiled to reduce the time burden for judges.

The judges' decision is final.

## **7. Prizes**

Each category will have:

- 1 Winner
- 1 Runner-Up

Non-cash prizes will be awarded to all category winners. Both the Winner and Runner-Up of each category will receive a printed certificate.

## **8. Rights and Usage**

Photographers retain copyright of their images.

By entering, participants grant the organisers permission to:

- Display images in exhibitions (physical and/or online).
- Share images to celebrate their success within the competition (physical and/or online).
- Include images within a 2027 Orkney Nature Festival Calendar, which will be sold (with all money raised benefiting the Orkney Nature Festival Charity).
- Use images for promotional purposes related to the Orkney Nature Festival (with appropriate credit given to the photographer).

## **9. Ethical Guidelines**

Images must not harm, disturb, or endanger wildlife or habitats.

Entrants must follow national and local laws and conservation guidelines when capturing images.

Any images deemed unethical or misleading will be disqualified.

## **10. Notification of Winners**

Winners and runners-up will be notified after the closing date.

Results will be announced via the Orkney Nature Festival social media channels.

## **11. Acceptance of Rules**

By entering the competition, participants agree to abide by these rules.