

Rules and Guidelines

1. The Shutter Shark Nature Photography Contest is open to all NSU students, graduate and undergraduate, registered for Winter Term 2026.
2. Alumni may also enter, but they will be judged separately from current students. There will only be alumni winners for overall first, second, and third, not for each individual category. Photos submitted must fit into one of the other specified categories in order to qualify.
3. All entries must be received by midnight on March 22, 2026. The awards ceremony and dinner following the event will be held April 9, 2026 from 4:30-7:30 pm.
4. Submissions are made online through NSU Works. By creating a free account, you will be able to upload your pictures directly into our system. You can view and edit your submissions anytime during the submission period.
5. Photos will not be accepted in which animals, plants, or objects have been staged or handled. An exception may be made for individuals who hold the appropriate permits. Photos taken in pools or aquariums are not permitted.
6. By submitting your photos, you are stating that no species were harassed or harmed, nor were ecosystems disturbed or damaged in the process of obtaining your photo. Violators of this rule will not be allowed to participate in this contest or future contests.
7. All photos must have been taken in 2025 or 2026. Photos that have been submitted in previous contests are not eligible.
8. Images may be optimized (i.e., adjusted while maintaining the image's integrity) but not altered such that an image does not reflect the actual subject matter.
9. This is an amateur contest (defined as photographers who earn less than 20% of their income from their photography).
10. Photos will be judged anonymously by qualified judges with a background in photography (local underwater / landscape photographers). All decisions will be final.
11. Ownership and copyrights of all submitted photos remain with the photographer. However, NSU reserves the right to publish the winning photos without compensation for educational and promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, publication on the NSU website, NSUWorks, in brochures, or for future contest promotion. The winning photographs will also be printed as part of an exhibit within the NSU community.
12. Proper credit will be given to all winners.

13. Contestants may enter ALL categories (except alumni) with a maximum of ONE entry per category. The same photo cannot be submitted to multiple categories. The maximum file size is 10GB.
14. Contestants are responsible for choosing the most appropriate category for their submissions. Photographs submitted to the wrong category will be automatically disqualified.
15. No contestant can win more than twice overall. The overall winning photo will be different from any other winning photos.
16. Digital images should be a minimum of 150 dpi at 8.5 X 11 inches in order to enlarge to 11 X 14 inches.

Categories

- **Marine Life** - *marine or aquatic fauna or flora*
- **Terrestrial Life** - *terrestrial (non-human) fauna or flora*
- **Landscapes** - *natural landforms, terrain, and scenic vistas (non-human)*
- **Change Over Time** - erosion, succession, bleaching, regrowth, urbanization, etc.
- **Fieldwork in Action** - *hands-on research and data collection*
- **Alumni** -Category is only open to alumni, and photos must fit under categories open to current students to qualify. Please indicate which category your photo falls under. Alumni must also provide a graduation date with their entry.