

Contest Announcement

8th Annual OLE' Photography SIG Photo / Alaska Photo Chat Contest

13 March 2026

For the entire month of December 2026, Jitters in Eagle River is featuring the winning entries from our upcoming 8th Annual Photo Contest. The exhibit will be comprised of approximately 32 images.

The contest is **open to ALL OLE' members and participants in the Alaska Photo Chat**. Entries will be posted on <https://qfam.org/OlePhotoSIG/PhotoContest/index.htm>. Ole Photography SIG members will vote on the submitted images to determine which will be selected for the show at Jitters in December and will vote again to determine the best three images in each category.

Competition Categories: (The category descriptions have an element of AI generation)

Black & White: Any image as long as it is black and white. Black and white photography emphasizes composition, texture, and lighting by removing color distractions, resulting in timeless, moody, and dramatic images. It simplifies scenes to highlight form and emotion, making it ideal for portraits, street photography, and architecture. This medium offers greater artistic control over contrast and, often, a more emotional impact.

Creative: Creative photography is an artistic approach that moves beyond simply documenting a scene, using imagination, unique perspectives, and technical manipulation to express emotions, stories, or abstract concepts. It involves experimenting with lighting, composition, and post-processing to transform ordinary subjects into extraordinary, sometimes surreal, pieces of art.

Open: This category is open to your best shots.

Threes: The rule of three in photography involves arranging subjects or elements in groups of three to create more balanced, dynamic, and engaging compositions compared to even numbers. This compositional technique, often used for, but distinct from, the rule of thirds, adds a natural flow and avoids static, centered, or split-scene images.

Contest Rules and Overview:

- A. Each entrant may submit a maximum of 3 entries per category for a total of 12 images.
- B. There are no time restrictions for when or where the photos were taken. Images do not have to be taken in Alaska.
- C. Images may be taken with any photographic device (i.e. cell phone, point-and-shoot, DSLR, mirrorless, drone, etc.) Composition tends to be the most important aspect of an image, not the tool used to capture it.

- D. Postprocessing editing is permitted, however all submitted images, and the components thereof, must be the original work of the submitting photographer. AI generated, or partially generated, images are not allowed, acknowledging that the use of AI assisted tools while editing an original image is generally acceptable.
- E. Images submitted for first round judging must not have watermarks or other features intended to identify the photographer. Final images printed for the show may have watermarks.
- F. Entry Cost: free
- G. Non-winning images from prior non-OLE' competitions are permitted.

Contest Schedule:

The competition will be managed through a website at qfam.org/OlePhotoSIG/PhotoContest

Today through October 10, 2026 – Select your best images, or take new images, for each category.

Today through October 10, 2026 (midnight Alaska time) – submit images electronically for judging. File names should include the name of the photographer. The links for image submittal are found on the above website. Note that the Alaska Photo Chat reserves the right to not accept images deemed by the group to be in poor taste and/or objectionable to a general audience.

October 12-24 (Round 1 Membership Voting) – View the images at the above link. Voting will be done by email as explained on the above website.

October 29 – Results of Round 1 voting are announced, and finalists notified. The show will consist of approximately 32 images. The Alaska Photo Chat will decide the cutoff in each category with an eye towards balance in the categories.

November - Selected photos need to be printed and framed (metal and canvas prints are also allowed) by the photographers whose images are chosen for the show. All images in the show MUST have wire hangers.

Monday, November 30, 2026 – 4 PM – We hang Exhibit at Jitters – volunteers needed.

Tuesday, December 1 – Exhibit Opens

Round 2 Final Voting: This round of Photo SIG membership voting determines the best 3 images in each category and occurs while the exhibit is on display. Voting will close at midnight on December 19th. See the above-referenced website for details.

Thursday, December 31 – 4 PM – We take down the Exhibit at Jitters – volunteers needed.

Photo Editing and Framing Assistance:

Feel free to drop in on the Photo Chat Wednesdays at 10am if you would like help with editing your photos prior to contest submission or prior to printing for exhibition. See qfam.org/PhotoChat for a link to the Photo Chat.