



Protect Our Reefs Photo Contest Rules

Images submitted to the Protect Our Reefs Photo Contest will be used to promote Mote Marine Laboratory's Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate, which funds coral reef research, conservation and education in the state of Florida. The grand prize-winning image will be used in the 2010 Protect Our Reefs marketing campaign.

Please read the rules carefully. By submitting an entry, each contestant agrees to the rules of the contest and states that they are 18 years old and older.

Term:

Protect Our Reefs Photo Contest begins November 1, 2009, and ends Friday, January 1, 2010, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). By submitting an entry, each contestant agrees to the rules of the contest.

Who may enter:

Photographers of any age, both amateur and professional, may enter. Photographers must be residents of the United States or Puerto Rico.

What to enter:

Submitted images should be of natural FLORIDA CORAL REEFS showing vibrant marine life and colors.

Images must include all of the following: a Florida reef scene, live corals and marine life.

Prohibited images include, but are not limited to: Nudity/sexuality, exploitation or harassment of animals or marine life, and illegal behavior (*e.g.*, touching corals).

Each image that includes identifiable subjects (people) must be accompanied by a separate, signed Model Release form from EACH identifiable subject in the image. Entries submitted without a required Model Release form, and entries submitted with defective Model Release forms (*viz.*, releases that cannot be verified for authenticity by Mote Marine Laboratory, for any reason, including missing, incorrect or incomplete contact information on the Model Release form) will be disqualified. See www.mote.org/photocontest to download a copy of the Model Release form.

How to enter:

Please submit images via email to reefplate@mote.org. We do not accept images submitted through the mail.

When you submit your image you must include in the body of the email your name, age, address, phone number, email address and a description of the image. The description should include when and where the image was taken, and any other relevant information. You must complete an entry form with contact information for each image submitted.

One (1) image per week may be submitted by a single individual. Individuals submitting more than the limit may be disqualified. Each new week begins on Sunday, starting Nov. 1, 2009. The last image must be submitted before 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Jan. 1, 2010.

Submitted images can have a maximum image size of 6 megapixels (3000 x 2000 4:3) and minimum image size of 2 megapixels (1600 x 1200 4:3). If a higher resolution version of the image is available, it should be saved by the submitter. Submitters of winning entries will be contacted by the Protect Our Reefs contest for a copy of the higher resolution version.

Altering content or subject matter of an image is not permitted, except with respect to cropping or resizing an image.

Entry deadline:

All submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, Friday, January 1, 2010.

Judging:

Entries will be judged on the ability to convey the beauty, health and vitality of Florida coral reefs. Technical excellence is, of course, a desired factor, but will not be the only deciding factor. All decisions of the contest judges are final. The contest judges are an esteemed panel of marine scientists, photographers, and the Protect Our Reefs Marketing Coordinator. The Grand Prize will be awarded only to the entry that the contest judges deem most worthy. The Grand Prize may not be awarded if no acceptable entries are received. All decisions by the contest judges are final.

On a weekly basis, Protect Our Reefs will post the winner of the incoming weekly entries on the Protect Our Reefs Facebook page.

At the end of the nine week period, nine semi-finalists will be selected, one for each week. The Grand Prize Award winner will be chosen from the nine semi-finalists.

Please do not contact us about the status of entries.

The Grand Prize Award winner will be notified of their status by February 1, 2010.

Prizes:

Prizes are non transferable and may not be redeemed for any substitutions. In the event that the Grand Prize Award winner chooses not to accept the Prize, they forfeit any and all claims to that Prize, which will be then dealt with according to the absolute discretion of Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs. All awards will be made at the discretion of the contest judges. If

a suitable image is not found amongst the entries, a prize may not be awarded for each placement or contest.

Semi-Finalist: One winner will be chosen from each week's submissions and the winning image will be posted to the Protect Our Reefs Facebook page as a semi-finalist.

Grand Prize: The nine semi-finalists will compete for the Grand Prize Award, which includes:

- Use of their image for the 2010 Protect Our Reefs Marketing Campaign
- Grand Prize Key West Getaway Award Package:
 - 2 Night Stay at the Island City House Hotel in Old Key West. (Provided by Island City House Hotel; Value \$500)
 - Half-day trip for two people scuba-diving the Vandenberg, including rental gear. (Provided by Captain's Corner Dive Center; Value \$240)
 - "Commotion On The Ocean" Sunset Sail for 2, featuring complimentary beer, wine and snacks. (Provided by Fury Water Adventures; Value \$100)
 - Protect Our Reefs Goody Bag

Rights & Disclaimer:

Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs reserves the right to use the images in any medium of public or private communication so as to promote or inform the public about any program at Mote Marine Laboratory without paying compensation to the photographer or the subjects. By submitting images, entrants are providing permission to Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs to retouch, edit and make such alterations to images that Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs may desire.

Your entry in the contest constitutes your agreement to allow any associated submitted images to be:

- Used in the 2010 or any subsequent Mote Marine Laboratory or Protect Our Reefs marketing campaign (including, but not limited to print publications, websites, posters, promotional items, commercial items, calendars and other marketing materials)
- Published on Protect Our Reefs websites (including, but not limited to, www.mote.org and <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Protect-Our-Reefs/195425750077>)
- Displayed at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

Good faith efforts will be made to give photo credit when an image is used by Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs. It must be understood that Mote Marine Laboratory occasionally gives promotional images to media, writers and other organizations, and cannot be held responsible if such organizations fail to give photo credit to a photographer for a promotional image.

No entry will be returned, and all entries become the property of Mote Marine Laboratory. Submitted images will be added to the permanent Mote Marine Laboratory photo collection, owned and maintained by the organization, and will be used as Protect Our Reefs/Mote Marine Laboratory sees fit.

All entries must be free of claims and rights of third parties. Images that have been previously published may not be submitted.

Contest entrants agree to abide by the terms of these Official Rules and by the decisions of the contest judges, which are final on all matters pertaining to the contest. The return of any prize/prize notification as undeliverable may result in disqualification and selection of an alternate winner.

Disclaimer

Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs is not responsible for entries not received due to lost, failed, delayed or interrupted connections or miscommunications, or other electronic malfunctions. Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs is also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate entry information, whether caused by the submitter, by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of the entries in this contest.

By entering, participants release and hold Mote Marine Laboratory/Protect Our Reefs, as well as any directors, officers or employees of those organizations from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the contest.

If, for any reason, the contest is not capable of being conducted as planned, including any causes beyond the control of the administrators, Mote Marine Laboratory/ Protect Our Reefs reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, modify, suspend or terminate the contest without notice to the entrants.

Any prize winner will be responsible for any and all taxes payable as a result of the prize being awarded or received.

Entry into the contest does not create any vested right or interest for the participants in the prizes offered for the contest.