

Sea Turtle Scenes Photo Contest — Official Rules

Who Can Enter

Open to amateur and professional photographers. Photographers may submit up to three photographs.

Deadline

September 11, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

You must include a [Photography Permission Form](#) with your submission.

Photos and Permission Form should be submitted via [STC's Google Form](#).

Photo Requirements

- Original photographs taken by the submitting photographer.
- Sea turtles must be depicted in a natural setting or in a manner consistent with STC's conservation mission.
- Photographs must be appropriate for a family-friendly conservation calendar.
- Previously submitted photographs may be entered again, but previous winning photographs are not eligible.

Wildlife Ethics

Photos must be obtained responsibly and without disturbing, harassing, handling, chasing, or otherwise interfering with sea turtles or wildlife. Flash photography that disturbs nesting turtles and other practices that violate wildlife-protection laws or ethical guidelines are prohibited.

Editing & AI

Normal photographic adjustments such as exposure, color, cropping, sharpening, and noise reduction are permitted. Images may not be substantially manipulated in a way that misrepresents the original scene. AI-generated images are not eligible, and AI may not be used to add, replace, or substantially alter the primary subject or scene. STC may request an original file to verify an image.

Submission Requirements

Each entry must include the photographer's name, email, photograph title, location, date, species if known, brief description, and photograph. Initial JPEG submissions should be no larger than 10 MB. Selected photographers must be able to provide a high-resolution file suitable for printing within seven days of notification. Horizontal/Landscape images are highly preferred.

Copyright & STC Photo Use

Photographers retain ownership and copyright of photographs submitted to the contest. By submitting a photograph, the photographer grants Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the submitted photograph for the Sea Turtle Scenes Calendar and to promote the calendar and STC's sea turtle conservation mission.

This license also allows STC to use submitted photographs for educational and outreach purposes, including on STC's website, social media channels, brochures, newsletters, educational materials,

and other STC communications. STC may also use submitted photographs for fundraising and promotional activities that support STC's conservation mission.

The Sea Turtle Scenes Calendar is sold by STC to help raise funds for sea turtle conservation.

Photographers retain all copyright and ownership rights in their photographs. STC will provide photographer credit whenever reasonably practical.

STC will not sell, transfer, or license a submitted photograph to an unrelated third party for that party's independent commercial or promotional use without the photographer's separate written permission.

Judging & Selection

A panel selected by STC will judge entries based on photographic quality, composition, technical execution, creativity, natural behavior, conservation value, storytelling, and suitability for the calendar. Public voting will not determine the winners. STC anticipates selecting 12 monthly photographs and one overall winner for the 2027 calendar cover.

Prizes

Each selected photographer receives two calendars, one STC 2025 Holiday Ornament, and one STC T-shirt. T-shirts can only be shipped to U.S. winners.

Winner Announcement

Winners will be contacted by email and may be announced through STC's website, Sea Turtle Talk, social media, and other communications.

Agreement

By submitting a photograph, photographers confirm that they have read and agree to these rules, own the photograph or have permission to submit it, and agree to the photo-use rights described above.