

The Vermont Maple Festival

2024 Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest Rules

- 1. Maker Eligibility** – This contest is only for **Vermont amateur photographers**. Not sure you are an amateur photographer? The contest chairman considers the definition in this article, on page 2, helpful and will use it as guidance for eligibility. By entering this contest, you are certifying that you made the original exposures of all your submitted photos, and that the processing, printing and special effects applied to your photos were done by you, or under your direction. You must also be a **resident of Vermont**.
- 2. Photograph Eligibility** – Any photograph of maple sugaring, taken by you, is eligible. Your photos do not have to be taken within any time limit. Award winning photos in this contest, in any previous year, are not eligible for entry.
- 3. Theme** - The theme for this contest, and its four categories, is **Totally Eclipsed by Vermont Maple**.
- 4. Categories** - You *may* submit up to two photos per category for a maximum of eight (8) photos taken by you. (e.g., You can submit just one photo, or one photo per category, or two photos in one category, or any combination with a maximum of eight.) The categories are:
 - **Process** (e.g., buckets, boilers, boiling, cleanup, horses, etc.)
 - **People** (e.g., sugar makers, helpers, cooks, canners, horse handlers, etc.)
 - **Scenic** (e.g., over-all scene of a sugar house, the woods with sap buckets, etc.)
 - **Maple Syrup Being Used** (e.g., Eating maple candy, sugar on snow, maple syrup on food and in drinks, etc. Maple syrup/products needs to be seen in the photo.)
- 5. Size and Mounting** - Entries have to be 8x10 photographs, color or B&W, that must be flush mounted on mount board, or mounted with a photo mat with an 8x10 opening. Do not frame your prints for this contest.
- 6. Contest Entry Labels** – Each photograph submitted to this contest must have a Contest Entry Label attached to the back of it. *Photos without its own Contest Entry Label will not be judged.* A page of three Contest Entry Labels is supplied with these rules; print as many sheets as needed. Do not put any identification on the front of your photo(s).
- 7. Print Competition Entry Form** – Each photographer is required to submit this form with your contest photographs.
- 8. Entry Deadline** is **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, by 3:00 P.M.** *Photos received after this deadline will not be accepted.*
- 9. Submitting your Photograph(s)** – Ship (Note: USPS First Class & Priority mail is a minimum 2-day delivery), or hand deliver, to: **Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest, Village Frame Shoppe, 50 North Main St., St. Albans, VT 05478. Store hours are Tuesday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-2. Closed Sunday and Monday.**
- 10. Judging** - A panel of Certified Professional Photographers will judge each photograph based on the following criteria: A) **Impact**, B) **Center of interest**, C) **Composition**, D) **Lighting**, and E) **Appropriateness** (How well the photo follows the contest theme and selected category.) The decisions of the judges are final.
- 11. Prizes** – The judges may select up to 8 winning photos. Overall Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. An honorable mention will be awarded for each category. Best of Show winner will receive a \$100 award along with a \$50 Gift Certificate to Village Frame Shoppe. For **1st Place** – \$75; for **2nd Place** – \$50; and for **3rd Place** – \$30. Honorable Mention (one for each category) - \$20. Each photo is eligible to win only one award/prize. *Additionally*, the winning photographs may be published in the St. Albans Messenger the week(s) following the Vermont Maple Festival weekend.
- 12. Usage Rights** – All photographs submitted to this competition remain the sole property of the photographer. By entering this amateur photography contest, you agree that the Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees has the right to use your entry photographs in its publications, educational programs, and publicity efforts without requiring additional compensation. The Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees will cite entrants as copyright holders of their work in its own publications but takes no responsibility for any third-party usage of photographs, although copyright and credit information will be supplied whenever photographs are transmitted to third parties.
- 13. Photo Contest Exhibit** – Your photos will be on display during the Vermont Maple Festival weekend at the **Village Frame Shoppe** located on the corner of North Main Street and Kingman Street in St. Albans.
- 14. Picking Up Your Photos** – Your photos can be picked up on **Tuesday, April 30 - Saturday, May 4, 2024, at The Village Frame Shoppe from 11:00 - 2:00 P.M.**
Any photos not picked up by May 31, 2024, will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of.
Please call to make other arrangements if you are unable to pick up your photos by **May 4, 2024**: (802) 524-3699.
If you prefer to have your photos returned by mail, please include with your entry an address label and a check made payable to Village Frame Shoppe for \$10 - photos will be returned priority mail.
- 15. Handling of Prints** – The Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees and its Print Committee assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged photographs but wishes to assure entrants that all care will be taken with your entry photographs.
- 16. This year's photography contest chairman is Daniel (D.J.) Pattullo.** If you have any questions, please contact D.J. by phone at 802-524-3699, or send an email to: vfsgallery@gmail.com

Thoughts on 'Amateur' and 'Professional' Photography by Alex Ignacio,

a professional photographer based in Santa Fe, New Mexico

An “amateur” photographer is someone that takes photos for fun and passion. They enjoy the art of photography and appreciate the ability to preserve memories and moments. Despite being “amateur,” they can, and do, take some of the most beautiful and breathtaking images you’ll ever see.

A professional photographer is consistently compensated for their photographic work. They have practiced and trained themselves to become at least competent at photography and to do it for others.

The other hallmark of a professional photographer is that they are a business entity, from one person operations all the way to large studio outfits with many full-time employees and assignments.

Professional photographers use proposals, contracts, and have insurance. They know how to perform at a consistent level every time through practice, perseverance, and effort.

The label of “professional” has less to do with skill and talent and more to do with business operations. There are great professional photographers who are not great photographers, but they have mastered the other areas of their business that are an integral part of being successful.

They work hard at the accounting, the marketing, the networking, the client relationships, and the professional outreach. And those parts are often much more important than the latest Photoshop technique, fancy gear, or firmware update.

A professional delivers on a promise to get the shot. Oftentimes passion led them to choose to become a professional photographer, but they now have many added pressures that are not optional anymore.

The analogy would be someone who loves to cook versus someone who makes a living cooking. Both can be called “chefs”, but one is a professional by definition while the other person is someone who is passionate about food and cuisine but does not depend on it for their livelihood.

The Photography Contest Chairman’s Note

Answer this simple question. As a photographer, are you open for business to accept commissioned (paying) clients on a consistent basis? If yes, this contest considers you a professional photographer. If you are not open to accept commissioned photography jobs, you are considered an amateur photographer.

As far as this competition is concerned, selling your photography does not mean you are a professional photographer, unless you are open for business and accept commissioned jobs.

Print Competition Entry Form
Annual Vermont Amateur Photography Contest
 sponsored by the **Vermont Maple Festival Committee**

Print Case Number

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

High School Student - Name of your school: _____

School's art/photography teacher's name (if applicable): _____

Instructions:

- You may enter up to eight (8) entries total. One, or two, entries per **each** category.
- Fill in the table, and sign the Certificate of Responsibility.
- Submit this entry form with your photographs.

	List your Photo Titles and the category for each photo	Process	People	Scenic	Maple Syrup Being Used
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

Certificate of Responsibility - Print Competition

I certify that I made the original exposures of these images and that all processing, printing and special effects were done by me, or under my direction, I am a resident of Vermont, and I have read and understand the contest rules.

Signature _____ Date _____

If 17 years old, or younger: Parent's Signature: _____

I have picked up my prints. Initial here: _____ Date: _____

Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest



TOP OF IMAGE



This **Contest Entry Label** is required on the back of each photo.

Photo Title *(Optional, BUT highly recommended)*: _____

****Very Important to select your Photo Category!****

(The contest rules give examples of these categories)

*• Select **only one** for this photo.*

Process

People

Scenic

Maple Syrup Being Used

Official Use Only

Entry Number

Maker's Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name of your high school *(If applicable)*: _____

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