

# VERMONT MAPLE FESTIVAL AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST RULES AND DEADLINES

**Entry Deadline:** Saturday, April 4, 2026, by 1:00 PM

**Exhibit Dates:** April 14 - April 28, 2026

## PHOTO PICKUP

**Dates:** April 28 – May 2 (11 AM – 2 PM) at Village Frame Shoppe.

**Late Pickups:** Call (802) 524-3699 to arrange.

**Unclaimed photos after May 31, will be discarded.**

**Theme:** *Sweet Taste of Spring*

**Categories (Max 2 photos per category, up to 8 total):**

- **Process:** Buckets, boilers, cleanup, etc.
- **People:** Sugar makers, helpers, horse handlers, etc.
- **Scenic:** Sugarhouses, sap buckets in the woods, etc.
- **Maple Syrup in Use:** Maple candy, sugar on snow, syrup on food/drinks, etc.

## Eligibility

- Open to **Vermont amateur photographers** only.
- You must be the original creator of all submitted photos.
- Photos must feature **maple sugaring** content.

## Photo Requirements

- **Size:** 8x10, color or B&W.
- **Mounting:** Flush-mounted or matted (8x10 opening). No frames.
- **Labels:** Each photo must have a Contest Entry Label on the back.
- **Entry Form:** A completed Print Competition Entry Form is required.

## Submission

**Drop-off Location:** Village Frame Shoppe, 50 North Main St., St. Albans, VT (Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-2)

**Mailing:** Use USPS First Class or Priority (minimum 2-day delivery).

## Prizes

**Best of Show:** \$100 + \$50 Village Frame Shoppe Gift Certificate

**1st Place:** \$75

**2nd Place:** \$50

**3rd Place:** \$30

**Honorable Mention (one per category):** \$20

Winning photos may be published in the *St. Albans Messenger*.

## Usage Rights

All submitted photos remain the photographer's property. By entering, you grant the Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees the right to use your photos in publications, educational programs, and publicity without additional compensation. While the Board will credit photographers in its publications, it is not responsible for third-party use, though copyright and credit details will be provided when shared.

**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.

**Questions?** Contact Daniel (D.J.) Pattullo at (802) 524-3699 or [vfsgallery@gmail.com](mailto: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 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

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

 **TOP OF IMAGE** 

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest

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

 **TOP OF IMAGE** 

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest

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

 **TOP OF IMAGE** 

**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): \_\_\_\_\_