



# **SPIE International Day of Light 2025 Photo Contest**

## **Official Rules**

### **About**

The goal of the SPIE International Day of Light 2025 (IDL 2025) Photo Contest is to raise public awareness about the International Day of Light and the vital role light and related technology play in our daily lives.

### **Organizer**

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, is the organizer of the contest. SPIE is located at 1000 20th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, USA. SPIE is a supporter of the International Day of Light.

### **Terms**

The SPIE International Day of Light 2025 Photo Contest accepts entries beginning 8:00 AM PST, 16 May 2025, and ends at 11:59 PM PST 16 September 2025. By submitting an entry, each participant agrees to the official rules and confirms that their entry complies with all requirements noted in the rules.

Winners will be notified 16 October 2025.

Winners will be announced 30 October 2025.

### **Theme**

The contest aims to showcase the transformative and awe-inspiring impact of light on our lives, communities, and planet.

Examples of content include, but are not limited to, artistic images that depict:

- Various properties of light and how it interacts with the atmosphere, nature, and materials
- Light technology such as lasers, LEDs, etc.
- Images created with light technology such as telescopes and microscopes
- People interacting with light and/or light technology

- The betterment of the human condition with light

### **Who May Enter**

The photo contest is open to adults aged 18 and up, both amateur and professional photographers, except employees of SPIE and optics.org, their immediate families, the contest judges, and consultants/contractors of SPIE. Immediate family is defined as all grandparents, parents, spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren, in-laws, or anyone living in the SPIE or optics.org employee's household. Entrants are subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Contest is void where prohibited by law.

### **How to Enter**

Digital photographs, photo titles, and artist statements must be submitted online via the form on the SPIE.org website. Entries submitted through mail will not be accepted.

### **Photo Type, Size, Format, and Resolution**

Photographs depicting the vital role that light and light-based technologies play in daily life must be in digital format, suitable for public exhibition and printing at high resolution.

All images must be 300 dpi or more and at least 3,000 pixels on the longest side. File size should be no less than 5MB and no greater than 20MB. **TIF and JPEG/JPG are the ONLY accepted formats.** Please submit the highest quality images that meet these requirements. Images that don't meet these criteria will not be judged.

### **Photo Alterations**

Only limited enhancement of the original photograph is permitted for the purpose of improving brightness and contrast or removing minor cosmetic flaws. Black and white images are acceptable. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Artificial intelligence (AI) may not be used to generate images.

### **Content Standards**

The photograph must not, in the sole discretion of the organizer, contain obscene, offensive, discriminatory, hateful, inflammatory, defamatory, sexually explicit, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate content. No nudity, please.

The photo title must be complete and accurate, sufficient to convey the circumstances in which the photograph was taken. Disguising or misrepresenting the origin of the content is cause for disqualification. Judges will look at every photo to see if it is authentic and may disqualify photos that are in any way deceptive. Watermarks are not acceptable.

### **Required Information**

The photographer's name, address, telephone number, email address, a title, and an artist statement must accompany each entry.

The artist statement should include the subject of the image, the location and date the image was taken, the equipment used to capture the image, any adjustments made to the image, a description of how it is tied to the contest's theme, and any other interesting details about the photo.

### **Limit of Entries**

Each person may submit a maximum of two (2) entries. Contestants should enter one photo per entry form.

### **Judging Criteria**

Each photograph will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Content: Appropriateness and coverage of content in relation to the theme.
2. Scientific interest: Overall effectiveness in engaging and communicating the contest theme to viewers.
3. Creativity/artistry: Innovation and creativity in the concept.
4. Execution: Execution of photography techniques used to enhance the quality and content of entries.
5. Overall appeal for the International Day of Light.

### **Judging**

Judging will be conducted by a panel of judges selected by SPIE, and may include SPIE Staff. Decisions of the organizer and judges are final and binding.

### **Prizes**

#### General Category:

1st Place: US \$2,500

2nd Place: US \$1,000

3rd Place: US \$500

Judges' Choice for Best of Science: \$1,000

Winning photographs will also be published in various SPIE publications, online, other printed materials, and displayed at SPIE conferences and exhibitions. Photos may also be used by organizations cooperating with SPIE in various IDL promotions. Credit will be given to the photographer.

Limit one prize per participant.

### **Disclaimer: Prize Restrictions**

Please be advised that prize money cannot be awarded to individuals located in countries currently sanctioned by the United States government. This includes, but is not limited to, countries subject to trade embargoes, economic sanctions, or other legal restrictions imposed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Participants from sanctioned countries are welcome to enter the contest and compete for recognition, but they are not eligible to receive monetary prizes while government restrictions are in place.

For further information regarding U.S. sanctions and restricted countries, please refer to the official website of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

### **Winners List**

Winners will be notified individually by email or telephone approximately two weeks before the public announcement of the official contest results. Winners' names will be displayed on the SPIE.org website, in a press release, and other methods.

### **Agreement to Official Rules**

By participating in the International Day of Light 2025 Photo Contest, entrants agree to abide by the terms and conditions established by the organizer, SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics. SPIE reserves the right to alter any of these official rules at any time and for any reason. All decisions made by the organizer concerning the contest shall be final and at its sole discretion.

### **Copyright, License, Releases, and Permissions**

Each entrant grants SPIE a royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to display, distribute, copy, and reproduce in any medium images submitted to the photo contest, and to use the images in derivative works such as posters, articles, or via any means or form of dissemination. SPIE will include full credit to the photographer any time an image is used. SPIE may allow cooperating organizations to use images to promote the International Day of Light, or other purposes in alignment with the SPIE educational purposes. No images will be used for commercial purposes.

It is the responsibility of each entrant to obtain all relevant model and/or property releases. By submitting images, each entrant assures that all images are their original works and no copyright and/or trademark infringement rights have been violated. It is not the responsibility of SPIE to obtain model and/or property release forms or to assure/examine protection of trademark or copyright infringement rights.

Each entrant agrees that personal data, including name, hometown, and affiliation, may be used for advertising and promotional purposes in the context of the photo contest and for any other purposes outlined in these official rules. The data may also be used by the organizer in order to verify the participant's identity, postal address, and telephone number or to otherwise verify the participant's eligibility to participate in the contest. Personal data will be used by the organizer and its affiliates exclusively for the purposes stated herein.

SPIE reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant (including an entrant's identity and address) and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these official rules or who tampers with the entry process.

#### **Limitation of Liability**

All entrants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless SPIE and its partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, agents and their employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in this contest or any contest-related activities and the acceptance and use, misuse, or possession of any prize awarded hereunder.

SPIE assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or delay in operation or transmission; communications line failure; theft or destruction of or unauthorized access to contest entries or entry forms; or alteration of entries or entry forms. SPIE is not responsible for any problems with or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any entry to be received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website, human errors of any kind, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to entrants' or any other persons' computers related to or resulting from participation, uploading or downloading of any materials related to this contest. SPIE is not liable for any loss, injury, or damage caused, whether directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from participating in this contest.