

Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County Photo Contest Criteria and Rules

Do you enjoy taking photographs? Is your camera roll full of photos you've taken around Indiana County? Consider entering them in the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County's "My Indiana County" Photo Contest.

The Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County (HGSIC) is a nonprofit organization that exists to promote a greater appreciation of the Indiana community's rich heritage and a better understanding of life today.

The HGSIC Photo Contest is designed to give Entrants the opportunity to photograph what they think of when they hear "My Indiana County." Entrants are encouraged to take photographs of landscapes, historical structures, and places that display Indiana County's rich community and culture.

CRITERIA & RULES – By entering the photographer accepts these criteria, rules, and conditions:

1. **Participation:** The contest is open to any person of any age, except staff, board members of HGSIC, and members of the HGSIC Fundraising Committee, participants will be placed into two (2) categories: (a) Youth Category and (b) Adult Category.
 - a. Participants age 17 and under will be placed into the Youth Category.
 - b. Participants over the age of 17 will be placed into the Adult Category.
2. **Eligibility of Photos:** All photos must be the original work of the Entrant. Use of a photo from other sources/people is not allowed and will be disqualified. Entry must be submitted by a single individual. Entries that have been previously published or have won another contest are ineligible.
3. **Location of Photos:** Images must be taken within the county limits of Indiana County, Pennsylvania.
4. **Number of Entries:** An individual may enter as many entries as they wish, provided an entry fee is paid for each entry.
5. **Entry Fee:** A \$5.00 entry fee per entry for adults is required for participating in the contest. Children 17 and under may enter for free.
6. **Entry Deadline:** Entries will begin to be accepted on January 1, 2025 and end on February 1, 2025. A direct link to the submission site will be posted on the HGSIC website at <https://hgsic.org/events>.

7. **Content:** Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, politically oriented, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited. Further, any photo which contains recognizable faces/individuals will be disqualified. Entries determined to be inappropriate or unsuitable by the HGSIC will be disqualified.
8. **Photograph Format:** Photographs can be in digital or physical format.
 - a. If submitting a digital format, the file type must be TIFF or JPEG;
 - b. If submitting in physical form, the photograph should be received at the Historical Society by the entry deadline;
 - c. Be taken in landscape format.
9. **Authenticity:** The entry must depict the subject or location as it appears in real life; entry cannot use props or software to dramatically change the actual appearance of the image.
10. **Disqualification:** An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Entrants will be informed of the disqualification and be permitted to resubmit a another photo at no cost. Entrants will not be entitled to a refund if the photo is disqualified.
11. **Release of Liability:** HGSIC and/or its employees involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, or non-displayed photographs.
12. **Copyrights:** Entrants will retain all rights and ownership to any entry and are not restricted in the future use of their images. HGSIC and its agents may credit images with the Entrant's name at its discretion.
13. **Display & Future Rights Use Rights:** By submitting an entry to the contest, the Entrant grants HGSIC a non-exclusive, royalty-free license, in perpetuity, to display, reproduce, distribute, publish, and create derivative works of the entry, in any medium, without compensation.
14. **Photograph Evaluation:** All images will be placed on the HGSIC website and in the Museum, and be open for judging by the community by the use of votes for favorite images. The photograph with the most votes will win. Voting will open on February 7, 2025 and close February 27, 2025, with the price of voting at \$1.00 per vote.
15. **Awards:** Cash prizes will be awarded to the first and second place in each category.
16. **Announcement of Results:** Winners will be announced at HGSIC's Trivia Night on February 28, 2025, and will be posted on HGSIC's website.

17. **Questions:** All questions and inquiries should be directed to fundraising@hgsic.org.