the Chickasaw Nation

Chris Anoatubby
Governor

Department of Culture and Humanities / Performing and Visual Arts Division
201 North Broadway Avenue / Ada, OK 74820 / (580) 272-5520 / Email address: ArtistInfo@Chickasaw.net

72-Hour Photography Competition Application, Rules and Guidelines

Photographer information:

Name: _____
First Middle Last Suffix

Mailing address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Physical address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Birth date: _____ Phone no.: (___) _____

Email address: _____

Tribal affiliation: ☐ Chickasaw ☐ Other (list tribe): _____ ☐ Non-First American

Category: ☐ Youth* ☐ Amateur ☐ Professional**

Release:
The undersigned hereby releases and agrees to hold harmless the Chickasaw Nation from any damages to the undersigned's property or any personal injury that they may sustain while participating in the 72-hour photography competition. I have read and understand the 72-hour photography competition application, rules and guidelines.

_____ _____
Photographer signature Date

_____ _____
Parent/legal guardian signature (if the photographer is under 18) Date

1. Completed applications must be **received** no later than Friday, August 7, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CST.
2. Photographs will be displayed August 24 - October 23, 2026, in the Chokma'si Gallery.
3. Your application will not be considered complete until the non-refundable entry fee of $30 is received.

☐ Please check if paying by check or money order. Otherwise, include payment information below. Credit card payments may also be made in person at the Chokma'si Gallery, 201 North Broadway Avenue, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820.

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Phone no.: (___) _____

VISA and Mastercard accepted (Please indicate card type.) ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card no.: _____ Expiration date: _____

Security code: _____

Signature: _____

Each photographer must submit a non-refundable entry fee of $30 before the start of the 72-hour photography competition (Friday, August 14 - Monday, August 17, 2026).

Eligibility:

1. The 72-hour photography competition is open to all photographers.
2. The competition will have three categories: youth, amateur and professional.
3. *Any photographer who is under 18 years of age and who has not graduated high school is considered a youth for category eligibility.
4. **Any photographer who derives more than $15,000 of income annually or more than 30% of income annually from photography is considered a professional for category eligibility.
5. Competition personnel reserves the right to reject photographers, or reassign them to a category, based on information that may come to light during the competition or judging process.
6. No age limits are imposed upon photographers, but all photographers must submit photographs of their own creation.
7. Parents/legal guardians of underage photographers must refrain from active guidance and assistance with concepts and technical considerations.

Time frame and themes:

1. All photographs must be shot and submitted within the 72-hour competition window.
2. The theme for the 72-hour photography competition will be emailed to photographers no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, August 14, 2026.
3. Upon receiving the theme, each photographer will be given approximately 72 hours to complete the competition.
4. The 72 hours cannot be restarted, suspended or otherwise altered by competition personnel.
5. Each photographer is responsible for ensuring the date and time on their camera is set correctly before the beginning of the competition.
6. Themes will not be made available to the photographer before the start of the competition.

Submission technical specifications:

1. Photograph files must be submitted by email to ArtistInfo@Chickasaw.net or on a compact disc (CD) or a thumb drive no later than Monday, August 17, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CST.
2. Photograph files can be submitted in person on a CD or a thumb drive to 201 North Broadway Avenue, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820, and must be delivered no later than Monday, August 17, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CST.
3. Images must be submitted in JPG format with original metadata (data recorded by the camera at the time of capture) intact.
4. The file naming format is last name_first name_01.jpg and last name_first name_02.jpg (e.g., Wallace_James_01.jpg).
5. Images cannot exceed 8”x10”, or 3000x2400 pixels, with a resolution of 300 dpi.
6. Data from the image file will be used to validate the images’ authenticity.
7. Images will be checked to ensure the origination date is within the competition time frame.
8. Because the date cannot be confirmed, copy negatives are not permitted.
9. Images should not bear watermarks, date stamps or other identifying marks.
10. The identity of the photographer will not be displayed for the judges during scoring.
11. Editing is limited to the following:
    a. For COLOR images, photographers may use the Adobe Camera Raw plug-in or assorted Photoshop techniques to accomplish the following tasks:
        i. Adjust exposure.
        ii. Adjust tone.
        iii. Adjust the white balance.
        iv. Globally adjust color.
        v. Dodge (at brush sizes no smaller than 20px).

vi. Burn (at brush sizes no smaller than 40px).

b. Photographers may **not**:
   i. Clone.
   ii. Heal.
   iii. Paint.
   iv. Composite.
   v. Sharpen.
   vi. Use any feature not listed above.

c. For BLACK-AND-WHITE images, the process of emulating black-and-white photography using digital techniques requires the use of a wider set of tools. In addition to those tools listed above, the following may be used:
   i. Channel mixer.
   ii. Black-and-white adjustment in Photoshop or the Adobe Camera Raw plug-in.
   iii. Multi-burning.
   iv. Color toning (sepia, copper, etc.).

12. Images not meeting the technical specifications will be disqualified.
13. Disqualified images will not be displayed.
14. A photographer who submits an image that is disqualified will be notified by email and given 48 hours to offer an appeal to defend the image if they feel they have been incorrectly disqualified.

Submission guidelines:

1. Each photographer can submit no more than two photographs.
2. Because we welcome photographers of all ages, all images must be family-appropriate to be accepted.
3. Refrain from any subject matter that is violent or suggestive, any work exhibiting this will be rejected.
4. Refrain from any subject matter that is discriminatory, racist or bigoted, any work exhibiting this will be rejected.
5. The application of the themes should be creative, but not contrived.
6. Photographs that incorporate other artwork, whether photographic or traditional, must incorporate that artwork into a larger photographic scene. Photographs of non-photographic artwork alone do not meet the requirements to be considered original photographs for this competition.
7. Images that merely contain the written text of the theme will be rejected.

Judging:

Judges will score on the following categories:

1. Exposure, contrast and color:
   a. Images should be properly exposed and contain sufficient contrast.
   b. All pertinent details should be visible.
   c. Is the photograph exposed in a way that works for the image?
   d. Does the lighting show off the subject well?
   e. Is the contrast level appropriate?
2. Focus and depth of field:
   a. Images should be in focus.
   b. If an image is out of focus, it must be done with intent and it should be clear that it was not merely a mistake.
   c. The depth of field is the thickness of the area that is in focus.
   d. The correct depth of field for an image can be somewhat variable and images will be judged on how well the choice of depth of field serves the image.
   e. Is the focus appropriate for the subject?
   f. Is the depth of field appropriate?

g. Is depth used (or not used) to good advantage?

3. Framing and composition:
   a. Images should be well cropped.
   b. Images should demonstrate good composition.
   c. Symmetry, asymmetry, placement of elements and the effective use of foreground and background elements may be considered.
   d. Is the composition skillful and dynamic?
   e. Is the image balanced or unbalanced?
   f. Is the balance level appropriate?
   g. Are there distracting elements in the picture that could be eliminated?
   h. Are there too many unrelated elements or too few elements?
   i. Does the framing work?
4. Artistry, originality and appeal:
   a. Images are judged on overall artistic merit and originality.
   b. Does the subject have interesting connotations or associations?
   c. Does the image show an original subject or an original approach to a standard subject?
   d. Is it anonymous or does it show a visual signature or convey a personal vision?
5. Execution of the theme:
   a. How well does the photograph capture or illustrate the theme?
   b. Does the image effectively tell a story about the theme or convey a mood or value?

Awards:

Winners will be announced Friday, October 23, 2026, at the awards reception to be hosted at 6:00 p.m. CST in the Chokma'si Gallery, 201 North Broadway Avenue, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820.

Overall Best of Show	$500
Youth First Place	$250
Youth Second Place	$150
Youth Third Place	$100
Amateur First Place	$250
Amateur Second Place	$150
Amateur Third Place	$100
Professional First Place	$250
Professional Second Place	$150
Professional Third Place	$100

Photographers may not win more than one prize per year in the 72-hour photography competition.