



## CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS! Enter now to win BIG and show off your talent!

Participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual “Ding” Darling- Theodore Cross High School Photography Contest in remembrance of Theodore Cross, an avid bird photographer who also marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., advised presidents on anti-poverty programs and wrote the influential book *Black Capitalism*, among others. This is the first photography contest of its kind in the local area and is open to all high school students in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties, regardless of skill levels. Submit your photo(s), information, and paragraph description by email to the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society at [ddhsphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:ddhsphotocontest@gmail.com) between October 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021. Notice will be sent to the 30 finalists with an invitation to the awards ceremony that will take place in February/March 2021, revealing first, second, and third place winners. The contest rules follow.

### How to Enter

All entries and personal information must be submitted in digital format to the email address [ddhsphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:ddhsphotocontest@gmail.com). Submit your full name, high school, grade, and an original photograph(s) that you took of nature and/or wildlife in the open outdoors of Florida. Include a title for the photograph and a written description (minimum 100 words) of the “moment” captured and how it reflects what nature and wildlife mean to you. You and your entry must comply with the following requirements:

- Current high school students attending schools in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades, and Charlotte (Florida) counties in grades 9 through 12 may enter the contest.
- Only digital images are accepted and may be taken with any camera, including smartphones.
- Images must be submitted in JPEG format and must have a resolution of at least 2000 x 1500 or 2 megabytes (MB).
- The photograph must be taken of nature and/or wildlife in the open outdoors in the state of Florida, which may include parks, refuges, backyards, and other open spaces.
- Panoramic photos are NOT allowed.
- Filters, cropping, enhancements, and borders are permitted. However, adding any elements not existing in the original scene will not be allowed. Judges, at their discretion, will disqualify any photos that appear to be manipulated beyond these guidelines.
- Each participant may enter up to two (2) photos but is eligible to win only one award.
- Judging will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or anything that will identify you on your photograph.
- There are three judges: A refuge staff person, a professional photographer, and a resident of the five-county region.
- Judging criteria:
  1. Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure)
  2. Creativity
  3. Explanation of photograph (minimum of 100 words)
- All photos will become the property of the Society. Photos may be used by the Society in any way with appropriate credit.

### PRIZES

#### FIRST PLACE:

(valued at more than \$1,500)

- Top-of-the-line camera with case and accessories (\$1,000 value).
- Tarpon Bay Explorers excursion for winner and family.
- Chartered class trip to the Refuge with private tour and photography workshop.
- “Ding” Darling gift bag and Nature Store gift certificate.
- Copy of *Waterbirds*, written by Theodore Cross with images from “Ding” Darling.

#### SECOND PLACE:

(valued at \$750)

- Chartered class trip to the Refuge with private tour and photography workshop.
- “Ding” Darling gift bag and Nature Store gift certificate.
- Copy of *Waterbirds*, written by Theodore Cross with images from “Ding” Darling.

#### THIRD PLACE:

- “Ding” Darling gift bag and Nature Store gift certificate.
- Copy of *Waterbirds*, written by Theodore Cross with images from “Ding” Darling.

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Refuge Nature Store gift certificate.

After the images have been submitted electronically, they will be printed out for judging. The winners of the contest will have their images matted and displayed in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center.

**The school or distributor is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.**