Roatan Marine Park Photo Competition

We are now accepting submissions for the 2021 annual RMP photo competition. Entries can be sent, through the following link roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest, until May 2nd at 12:00 EST. Enter today for a chance to have your photos featured in the 2022 RMP Calendar!

RMP Photo Competition Guidelines

1. Each submission must include the photographer’s name, photo name, photo location (as specific as possible) and category.
2. Photos need to be submitted through the following link roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest
3. All photos submitted must be from the Bay Island National Marine Park, which includes Utila, Roatan and Guanaja
4. Split shots or over under images are allowed, but all photos must be composed to include at least 50% underwater
5. Entries must be saved in jpeg format and should be sized to be between 3000 and 6000 pixels in the longest dimension. Please limit your images to a maximum file size of 5,000KB (5MB).
6. Maximum one entry per participant for each category
7. Participant can not submit the same photo to different categories
8. Please submit picture without watermark, photographers will be acknowledged in the calendar
9. Orientation of all pictures MUST be Landscape
10. RMP employees or professional photographers are not allowed to participate. We are looking for * amateur photographers
    *Amateur Photographer: People who earn less than 50% of their income from photography are amateurs
11. Only individuals can submit photos, we will not accept photos from groups or businesses
12. Submissions not following the guidelines or not matching the category submitted will not be accepted
Categories:

- **Macro:** The subject of the photograph is usually very small in real life (6 inches or smaller), or is a very small detail of a larger object, shot with a lens focal length greater than 35mm.

- **Conservation in Action:** Marine or Coastal ecosystem community project. Must feature a local community-based project that has to do with marine conservation.

- **Divers:** Must include a SCUBA or Free Diver.

- **Black and White/Artistic:** Image where all color has been removed (either in the digital process or through the choice of film). It consists of shades of gray tone that generally go from dark (black) to light (white), or images that are created solely for imaginative or aesthetic quality.

- **Wide Angle:** depicts natural coral reef scenery, with no human influence

- **Reef Portrait:** portraits stand out from any other image by the fact that the primary focus of the frame is on the animal's face and that the emotion or very essence of the subject is conveyed through this small frame.

- **Animal behavior:** Behavior is anything an animal does involving action and/or a response to a stimulus. Feeding, cleaning, walking, swimming, and huddling are all examples of behaviors

*RMP will have all the rights to use the photos sent for the photo competition, these may be used on marketing campaigns, social media, brochures and other publicity for RMP activities. Credits will be given to the photographer when possible. You acknowledge this by submitting your images.

Selection of Winners:

We will select the winners in two ways, by judges vote and by popular vote. For the Judge vote, our panel of judges will be given access to a Google drive with photo submissions from each category with no information regarding the photo (name, location, photographer, etc.) Judges will have one week to peruse the photos and make their final decision. They will each send us their top 5 choices for each category. The winning photos will be the ones that receive the majority vote from the judges in each category.

Popular vote will be selected by voting online (through likes) in each category. Please promote your photo submissions on your social media accounts and tag Roatan Marine Park! #rmpphotocomp2021. Photos posted on social media for voting will be given an assigned identification number. The names of the photographers will not be posted or shown, until the winner has been chosen.
The voting period for popularity will last two weeks, NO extension for voting deadline will be allowed.

Judges Criteria for photos:

- **Impact** – what you feel when you first view the Entry. Does the photo evoke an emotion from the viewer?
- **Creativity** – how the Entrant was able to convey their idea, message or thought in an original and imaginative way through their lens.
- **Style** – how the Entrant is able to showcase their personal originality and technique to influence how the image is presented and interpreted.
- **Subject Matter** – was the subject matter displayed in the photo appropriate to the story being told in the Photo Entry submitted and does it fully represent the category

Any extensions for photo submissions due to insufficient photos for each category will require approval by the RMP executive director. Any extension of the deadline will be notified via social media (Facebook and Instagram) at least 48 hours before the original deadline.

**Conservation Rules will be strictly observed**
Flora and fauna should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries suspected of exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified:

- Photographers visibly damaging the environment (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand)
- Animals with signs of stress (e.g. puffed puffers, inking octopus)
- Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location
- Marine life being touched (e.g. nudibranchs, coral polyps, seahorse tails)
- Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control
  
  ** The judges will be asked to interpret this guideline and disqualify any images that are suspect to poor behavior

**Calendar Photo Selection**

The RMP calendar committee will decide which photos will be used in the calendar and in which order.