

HIDALGO COUNTY 2010 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

New Beginnings!

What do you think of when interpreting “new beginnings?” Is it the sun coming up over a field of sugar cane or the first smile of a newborn baby? Do you think of New Year’s Day, a birthday or a wedding? Whatever “new beginnings” means to you, capture it in a photo and win big!

The Hidalgo County 2010 Photography Contest begins Friday, October 22 and ends at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 24. All entries must be submitted online via the Hidalgo County website at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/photocontest.

ELIGIBILITY

1. No payment or purchase necessary to enter.
2. Contest open to all photographers of all ages, amateur or professional. Photographers under 17 must obtain parent or guardian signature to enter.
3. Photos must be **taken in or of Hidalgo County**, and entries must specify the location for each photograph on the online entry form.
4. Photographers do not need to reside in Hidalgo County. The contest is open to county employees and their families, as well.

CATEGORIES

1. Contest participants will enter their photographs into one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Culture – Should showcase cultural traditions or heritage of a group living in Hidalgo County
 - b. Nature – Landscape photography of the flora or fauna of Hidalgo County
 - c. People – Photos of individuals, groups or crowds of people that signify new beginnings
 - d. Places – Any place, indoor or outdoor, (for example: business, restaurant, etc.) that does not qualify as a “landscape”
2. First through fifth place winners will be selected in each category for a total of 20 winning images.
3. You may submit up to three photographs in each category.

IMAGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Only digital photos will be accepted. Images should not be altered excessively by any software programs.
2. Images should be submitted in JPG format at high quality, and file size should not exceed 5MB (5,000KB).
3. No borders or frames on images.
4. No watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright notices on photos.
5. Entries must be submitted by original photographer.
6. Photos containing persons must be accompanied with signed photo release forms¹ for each subject.
7. The photo must be suitable for government use. No obscene or graphic photos.

OWNERSHIP/PHOTO USE POLICY

1. Photographers retain the copyright to their photographs.
2. By entering the contest, photographers agree to have their submitted photograph used on the Hidalgo County website (www.co.hidalgo.tx.us) and other official County documents, and displayed at Hidalgo County buildings without any fee or other form of compensation. Photographers also agree that their submitted photos may be used for fundraising purposes for educational scholarships.
3. Photographers agree that winning photos may be used in an online and public gallery and that photos will be retained by the county for archival purposes without any fee or other form of compensation.
4. Photos will be credited to the photographer listed on the registration form.
5. If ownership of the photograph is contested in any manner, Hidalgo County may disqualify or discontinue use of the photograph.
6. The county will have the sole discretion to determine which photos may be suitable for display and public use.

JUDGING

1. A panel of judges will judge each photo based on quality, creativity and how the image captures the theme, "New Beginnings." Photos must be taken in Hidalgo County.
2. The panel will include those experienced in multimedia, website design and public relations.
3. All decisions made by the panel are final.
4. Winners will be notified via the information provided on the contest entry form.

¹ Photo Release Form can be found online at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/photocontest.