



DEAD HORSE RANCH

STATE PARK

Eligibility

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers, age 18 and older. Employees of Arizona State Parks and Trails and members of their immediate family (spouse, parent, child, sibling and their respective spouses, regardless of where they live) or persons living in the same households of such employees, whether or not related, are not eligible.

Content

This contest is for bird photos in Dead Horse Ranch State Park. All images must be taken within the park's boundaries (see map at <https://azstateparks.com/dead-horse/explore/maps>). Images taken elsewhere in the Verde Valley are not eligible.

Submissions and Format

All images must be submitted online to the link at <https://azstateparks.com/dead-horse/events/birding-photo-contest> by September 20 at midnight. Photos do not have to be taken during this timeframe, only submitted.

Format: Images should be high-resolution and in digital format only. Images can be landscape or portrait orientation and may be scanned, as long as they are still high resolution.

Images in which content has been altered beyond standard optimization will not be accepted; AI-generated and AI-enhanced images will not be accepted. Do not add signatures or watermarks to photos.

Entry Procedure

Each contestant may submit a maximum of three (3) entries. Each submission must contain the following:

- Name of photographer
- Email address
- Type of bird and location within the park that the photo was taken

Prizes

A first and second place winner will be selected. Winners will be notified via email.

- First place: One (1) free night's stay in a Dead Horse Ranch State Park cabin; picture posted to social media with name credit and published to the park's website.
- Second place: One (1) day-use pass to any Arizona state park (pass not for tours/camping); picture posted to social media with name credit and published to the park's website.

Photos submitted may be used in upcoming promotions, advertisements, or social media accounts for Dead Horse Ranch State Park and Arizona State Parks and Trails.



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Judging

Entries are judged separately and anonymously by park staff; there is no personal information included during the judging process. Winners will be announced on September 26, 2026.

Entries are judged based on:

- Composition
- Creativity
- Framing
- Perspective

Entries subject to disqualification include photos that:

- Are not in Dead Horse Ranch State Park
- Have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization or are AI-enhanced/-generated
- Have a watermark/signature

Rights and Permissions

Photographers retain copyright to their submitted photographs. By submitting one or more entries, contestants agree that the photo can be used with photographer credit on the agency's website; in newsletters; on the agency and park's social media platforms; or use in advertising the parks. Arizona State Parks and Trails will not use any submitted photos in any other way or for any other purpose without permission. By submitting the photo, contestants agree that they are over 18 years of age and that all human subjects in the photo (or guardians) have granted permission for the photo to be used on these platforms.

Arizona State Parks and Trails reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant (including an entrant's identity and address) and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these official rules or who tampers with the entry process.