



## COLORADO CRANE CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.

Dedicated to the conservation and protection of Sandhill Cranes in Colorado

# 2025 CCCC Photo Contest Rules

## Eligibility:

Greater Sandhill Crane photos can be submitted in 4 categories:

1. Yampa Valley Greater Sandhill Cranes (Routt & Moffat Counties) – Amateur Division
2. Yampa Valley Greater Sandhill Cranes (Routt & Moffat Counties)– Professional Division
3. Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes- Locations outside the Yampa Valley (open to both Amateur and Professional photographers)
4. Altered Reality Images of Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes - locations both within and outside the Yampa Valley, open to amateurs & professionals.

Photos submitted in any category must be taken between September 1, 2024, and August 9, 2025. Entrants must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person or submit images that involve willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer. No trespassing on private property to take photos.

Photographers should review and abide by the [Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography](#) .

## Photo contest rules:

### Categories 1, 2 & 3: Eligible Photographs Include:

Normal processing of the original file is acceptable. That includes:

- Cropping
- Minor adjustments to color, white balance, tone, lighting levels, curves, shadows and highlights, saturation, contrast, and sharpness.
- Moderate dodging and burning
- Removal of dust spots and moderate reduction of image noise.

Photographs that have been digitally or otherwise altered beyond standard optimization can be entered in the Altered Reality category 4.

### Category 4 Altered Reality: Eligible Photographs Include:

- Images that display an obvious change in natural color, form, shape or any combination of these.
- Images that have been enhanced or transformed beyond the way the subjects appear in nature.

You may be required to provide CCCC with original image files (RAW, jpg, etc.) in the timeframe provided upon request (generally within 7 days). Judges will determine whether changes to an image are significant enough to change an entry to the Altered Reality category. Failure to provide original files may result in the disqualification of the Photograph at CCCC's sole discretion.

## **Photo Subject:**

Categories 1 and 2: Greater Sandhill Cranes and/or Sandhill Crane habitat in the Yampa Valley (Routt and Moffat Counties).

Category 3: Greater Sandhill Cranes found outside the Yampa Valley; specifically, the states included in the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes – Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico. Category 3 is open to both Amateur and Professional photographers.

Category 4: Altered Reality Images of Greater Sandhill Cranes found within and outside the Yampa Valley; specifically, the states included in the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes – Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico. Category 4 is open to both Amateur and Professional photographers.

Photos of cranes may include other birds and wildlife that share crane habitat.

## **Prizes:**

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Yampa Valley Crane Festival in four categories:

### **Yampa Valley Cranes, Amateur:**

Gift certificates to PhotoGraphicsArt in Steamboat Springs, CO

- 1st place – \$150 gift certificate
- 2nd place – \$100 gift certificate
- 2 Honorable Mentions – \$25 gift certificate each

### **Yampa Valley Cranes, Professional:**

- 1st place – \$200 cash
- 2nd place – \$100 cash
- 2 Honorable Mentions – \$50 cash each

### **Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes outside the Yampa Valley – Amateur and Professional:**

- 1st place – \$200 cash
- 2nd place- \$100 cash

### **Altered Reality Images of Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes within and outside the Yampa Valley – Amateur and Professional:**

- 1st place – \$200 cash
- 2nd place - \$100 cash

All winning photos will be featured on the Yampa Valley Crane Festival website and CCCC social media.

## **To Submit Photos**

To submit photos, please email [photocontest@coloradocranes.org](mailto:photocontest@coloradocranes.org) with the following information: **photographer's name, phone number, location of photo, date it was taken, and a title for the image for each photo, and attach each photo in jpeg format.** Submissions must be received no later than **August 9, 2025**. Two submissions per person are allowed in each of the applicable categories. Entrants are eligible to win one prize per category.

## **Photo Use and Rights:**

By submitting photos to the contest, you agree to allow the Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, sponsor of the Yampa Valley Crane Festival, to use your photo with appropriate credits on promotional materials and as part of the festival. Photos submitted to the contest can be used by CCCC for promotion of the festival and other CCCC activities.