



## “Picture Yourself in Allegan County”

*A Photo Contest Sponsored by the Allegan County Tourist Council*

Whether photography is your passion, your hobby, or just an occasional pastime, you are invited to participate in the “Picture Yourself in Allegan County” photo contest, celebrating the beauty and unique character of the county.

Winning photos will be displayed on the [www.VisitAlleganCounty.com](http://www.VisitAlleganCounty.com) website and will also be included in the annual Allegan County Visitor’s Guide.

Both amateur and professional photographers are welcome to participate. Photos will be judged in Youth and Adult Divisions.

### Deadlines:

- Winter Contest Deadline: April 1
- Spring Contest Deadline: June 1
- Summer Contest Deadline: September 1
- Fall Contest Deadline: December 1

Entries must be mailed or dropped off to:

Allegan County Photo Contest  
c/o Allegan County Tourist Council  
3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 102  
Allegan, MI 49010

Questions? Call the Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism office at 888-4-ALLEGAN.

*Please read the complete contest rules before entering.*

## **OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES**

*No purchase or payment necessary to enter or win*

### **Photo Eligibility**

Entries in the Youth Division must be taken by individuals 17 years of age and younger. All other entries (both amateur and professional) fall under the Adult Division. Allegan County Parks Department employees and Tourist Council members and their immediate family members are not eligible. Immediate family includes only spouses, parents and children. All photos must be in color and taken in Allegan County during the appropriate season. Photos should encompass the true character of the county, including attractions, people, places, historic sites, shopping, antiquing, natural wonders, festivals/events and the like.

### **Submitting Entries**

All entries must be submitted as 8x10 prints (for judging purposes) and must be in color. A negative and/or a 300 dpi jpeg/tiff file must be submitted (either via email to [tourism@allegancounty.org](mailto:tourism@allegancounty.org) or on a CD) with your entry. Panoramic photos are not eligible. Black and white, sepia tone and duotone images are not eligible. Attach a label to the back of each print with your name, address, phone number and email (if available). Do NOT write on the photo itself. Images, negatives and CDs will be not returned.

Each entry must be accompanied by a completed contest entry form and must be received by 5 p.m. on the deadline date. Mail or drop off your print to:

Allegan County Photo Contest  
c/o Allegan County Tourist Council  
3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 102  
Allegan, MI 49010

### **Image Modifications:**

Minor digital enhancement is permitted, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified.

Not Permitted:

- No borders or frames may be added to images.
- No watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices may be added to images. All winning images will be displayed with the photographer's name.
- Adding or replacing elements in an image is not permitted.
- Artistic filters are not permitted.

### Permitted Modifications:

- Images may be cropped and rotated as necessary as long as the rectangular format is maintained and the size is within the specifications above.
- Images may be resized as long as the aspect ratio is maintained
- Red-eye removal and spot editing
- One-step enhancement (such as "AutoFix", "QuickFix", "Auto Levels", etc.)
- Use of filters to sharpen, soften, blur, despeckle, or remove noise.
- Use of corrective functions to improve the natural appearance of the image, such as levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone, hue, saturation, lightness, value, color balance, and tint.

### **Photographer/Copyright**

Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Do not submit a photo taken by someone other than yourself. You must be the sole owner of the copyright of any image submitted. Your submission of the photo and entry form is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo.

### **Ownership/Use Rights**

By entering the contest, photographers agree to have their submitted photograph displayed on the [www.VisitAlleganCounty.com](http://www.VisitAlleganCounty.com) or [www.AlleganCounty.org](http://www.AlleganCounty.org) websites without any fee or other form of compensation, and agree that the Allegan County Tourist Council may use all submitted photos – whether selected as official “winners” or not – for any future promotional or advertising purposes without further written consent. Images may also be submitted to other tourism-related organizations (including, but not limited to, Travel Michigan and West Michigan Tourist Association) and other media sources for promotional use. Photo credit will be given.

### **Number of Entries**

An individual may submit only one photo, per seasonal contest.

### **Photo Subject Restrictions**

Photos must be appropriate for posting on a public government website. Obscene, provocative or otherwise questionable content will not be considered. The Allegan County Tourist Council retains sole discretion as to what constitutes inappropriate content. Photos containing recognizable people must be accompanied by a signed model release form.

### **Judging**

Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, photographic quality and effectiveness in conveying the beauty and/or unique character of Allegan County. A panel will judge the entries and all contest decisions are final. Entries that fail to comply with the Official Contest Rules will be disqualified. The panel will include professionals in graphic design, website design, website development, marketing and public relations.

## **Winners**

One winner in each of the Youth and Adult Divisions will be announced within 15 days of the contest deadline. Images will be posted on the [www.VisitAlleganCounty.com](http://www.VisitAlleganCounty.com) website and will be submitted to area media with a news release. Winners will be notified by phone and email using the information on the entry form. Each seasonal Youth and Adult Division winner will receive a gift valued at \$25, along with a Heritage Trail CD and Guidebook valued at \$15. No additional compensation, other than a photo credit, will be provided to winners.

### **Additional Terms and Conditions**

The Allegan County Tourist Council is not responsible for computer system, hardware, software, or program malfunctions or other errors, failures, or delayed computer transactions or network connections that are human or technical in nature. Furthermore, Allegan County Tourist Council is not responsible for: (i) lost, misdirected, misplaced, illegible, unintelligible, incomplete, or late entries or (ii) any act, failure to act, or delay regarding the transmitting or processing of entries. Allegan County Tourist Council reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel or suspend all or any portion of this contest without notice if factors beyond its control, including technical difficulties, disrupt or corrupt the fair or secure administration or operation of the contest. Void where prohibited. Allegan County Tourist Council is entitled to interpret these rules as needed and its decisions are final. Allegan County Tourist Council reserves the right to disqualify any entrant that it has reason to believe is not the original work of entrant, or does not otherwise meet the contest rules. If a winner is disqualified or determined to be ineligible, an alternate winner will be selected using the same judging process/criteria described above. Alternate winners are subject to all requirements set forth in these Official Rules.

By participating in the contest, you agree to release and hold harmless Allegan County Tourist Council and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest, including infringement of intellectual property rights. Allegan County Tourist Council and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies assume no responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest.

Last revision 12/30/2009