

# 2025 MOUNTAIN PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

## Photo Essay Entry Procedures and Regulations

The **Mountain Photo Essay Competition** is a program of Mountain Culture at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. We promote understanding and appreciation of the world's mountain places by creating opportunities for people to share and find inspiration in mountain experiences, ideas, and visions. Other Mountain Culture programs include the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival and World Tour, a world-renowned Adventure Filmmakers Workshop, and other programs.

### COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

The competition format is the photo essay. At its simplest, the definition of a photo-essay is a set or series of photographs that are intended to tell a story or evoke emotions in the viewer. We invite photographers to submit curated photo essays to illustrate their mountain related stories that fall under the sub-categories of culture, adventure, wildlife, sport, environment, or natural history. The selection committee and jury will be seeking a sequence of images that conveys a compelling story or message – with each image strong enough to stand on its own while conveying a greater narrative when viewed in the photographer's desired sequence.

### ENTRY DEADLINE: May 5, 2025

**Note:** The complete entry including submission form and images must be received no later than May 5, 2025. After this date, your entry may not be eligible to be included in the judging process. However, the organizers reserve the right to consider these entries.

If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact us before completing the entry form at:

[banffmountainphotos@banffcentre.ca](mailto:banffmountainphotos@banffcentre.ca).

### ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Submissions will be accepted in the form of photographic essays only.

Images can depict any mountain story consisting of culture, adventure, wildlife, sport, environment or natural history.

The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers.

Only digital image files will be accepted.

- You must be the author and sole owner of the copyright for all images you enter.
- Images must have been taken within the last two years (2024 – 2025).
- Each photographic essay of three (3) to five (5) images constitutes one entry.
- Entries will be judged on the basis of effectiveness in conveying the mountain story through composition, technique, content, and originality of well-edited images. We suggest you include only those images required to tell your story – unnecessary images may reduce the overall impact of your submission.

### FORMAT GUIDELINES:

- 1024 x 768 pixels; 72ppi
- JPG image files no larger than 2MB each. NB: Digital files larger than 2MB will be discarded – high resolution images are not required at the preliminary stage.
- Embedded sRGB colour space.
- No watermarking or digital mattes, frames, or borders.
- Photographer's name should not be visible on images (every effort is made to judge entries based solely on the image without distractions).
- A short synopsis should be provided to describe your photo essay.

### FILE NAMING:

- **Important** - each digital image file name must follow this format:

**YOUR LAST NAME** underscore **YOUR FIRST NAME**  
underscore **ESSAY NAME** underscore **IMAGE NUMBER**

### EXAMPLE:

DOE\_JANE\_MT RUNDLE\_1.JPG

DOE\_JANE\_MT RUNDLE\_2.JPG

- If you are entering more than one essay, please ensure that the essay name and image numbers are unique – to distinguish your essays from each other.
- Please name and number photos in the sequence that it should be viewed in.
- If your entry is selected as the winner, we will require a high-resolution version for exhibition and printing purposes. This will be requested at the conclusion of the judging process.

Sponsored By:



## SELECTION PROCESS

- All entries will be viewed by a selection committee chaired by the Director, Festival and World Tour. Finalists chosen by this committee will be viewed by an independent jury who will choose the Grand Prize winner which will be announced in June 2025. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$3000 CDN.
- The Entrant acknowledges and agrees that all matters will be decided by the organizers.
- The winning essay will be displayed as part of the 2025 Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival exhibitions. Finalists may also be displayed during the Festival.
- The winning essay may be reproduced in third party content (e.g., sponsor website) for competition promotion. Artists are to enter into a separate commercial contract with third parties interested in printing photo essay images not in relation to competition promotion.

## GRANT OF RIGHTS AND WAIVER

By entering the photo essay competition, the Entrant represents and warrants that:

- a) The Entrant hereby grants Banff Centre the rights to use the images as outlined in this entry form.
- b) The Entrant owns all right, title and interest, including the copyright and all intellectual property rights, in and to the images being submitted to the Competition and has the right to distribute, exhibit and promote the images in or through all media formats now known or hereafter devised, including, but not limited to, the Internet throughout the universe.
- c) No material in the images being submitted by the Entrant to the Competition is libelous or is slanderous or defamatory or violates any right of privacy or publicity of any person, and the full use of the rights in such images will not violate any rights, including copyright or moral rights, of any person, firm, or corporation.
- d) To the extent that the Entrant may now or in the future be entitled to any so-called moral, author's or similar

rights in the images pursuant to the Copyright Act (Canada) or otherwise, the Entrant hereby allows Banff Centre and third parties to reproduce, display and archive the images, for use by the Mountain Photo Essay Competition and related exhibitions.

- e) By entering the Mountain Photo Essay Competition, the Entrant acknowledges and agrees to all entry rules and regulations of the Competition.

## INDEMNITY

The Entrant agrees to indemnify Banff Centre and the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival, their respective successors, assigns, licensees, and their respective officers, directors, members, agents and employees and hold them harmless from and against any and all claims, liability, losses, damages, costs, expenses (including reasonable legal fees) and penalties arising out of, resulting from, based upon or incurred because of a breach by the Entrant of any statement, representation or warranty made by the Entrant in this entry form.

## PLAIN ENGLISH – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Entry in the competition allows photographs chosen as the winner, for special mention or as a finalist to be reproduced, published, and/or exhibited by the Banff Centre and third parties for promotional purposes, only as they pertain to the Mountain Photo Essay Competition and Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival.
- All applicable model releases are the responsibility of the entrant.
- We will honour your copyright, and all images will be credited to the photographer.
- By entering the competition, you agree to everything in these regulations. All submissions will be retained by the organizers for adjudication and archival purposes and will not be returned.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

### ADVENTURE FILMMAKERS WORKSHOP

Fall 2025

The Adventure Filmmakers Workshop is an exceptional chance for independent and emerging filmmakers to advance their skills under the guidance of two of the world's premier and proven adventure filmmakers. During this 10-day intensive in-person program, participants will learn insider skills to hone their craft, strengthen their narratives, interact online with fellow filmmakers during group critique sessions, and will receive guidance on small independent projects throughout the course. Guest speakers will provide expertise in the areas of storytelling, audio, editing and social media marketing.