

Photography Contest Rules

Photos being entered into the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival Photo Contest must be of a subject relating to North Carolina cotton. Photos cannot be computer enhanced in any way using graphics software. Please be sure to read all requirements before submitting photos. Photo submissions not meeting the criteria will not be judged.

Submitting: Print your name, complete address and daytime phone number on your photo and send it to *Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival Photo Contest, PO Box 931, Dunn, NC 28335* or hand deliver it to: *South River EMC, 17494 US 421 S., Dunn, NC 28334*. Electronically submitted photos will **not** be accepted.

Photographs must be a minimum of 5" x 7" and a maximum of 8"x10". All photos must be mounted on a flat rigid cardboard or mat board. Matting must not extend beyond three inches around the perimeter of the print. Photographer's name, address and phone number should be listed on the back of every mounted image. All submissions must be entered *along with a signed copy of the contest rules*.

Entry Deadline: Contest entries will be accepted through the close of business on **October 15, 2010**. No late entries will be considered.

Categories: There are four divisions: adult, high school (grades 9-12), middle school (grades 6-8), and elementary school (grades 1-5). The adult division will have a first, second and third place winner. A single winner will be selected from each of the high school, middle school and elementary school categories. *There must be a minimum of three entries for each category in order for that category to be considered for judging.*

Entries: Each photographer is allowed to submit a maximum of three photographs. No duplicate photos will be allowed. This includes duplicate photographs in different shades such as, black and white or sepia. Photos that have previously won prizes in the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival Photo Contest are not eligible for consideration.

Status: In all fairness to the amateur status of the contest, any person who derives more than 50% of his/her income from employment as a photographer is excluded from entering the contest.

Judging: A panel of judges will select the winners in each category. All entries will be judged on composition, technique, content and originality. All decisions of the judges with respect to all aspects of the contest are final. The "best of show" photograph will be determined by a vote of the people visiting the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival on November 6.

Exhibition: The prize-winning image will be published in Carolina Country magazine and distributed throughout North Carolina and may be used in other publications of South River EMC or the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival. All *winning* photographs will be

on display at the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival in downtown Dunn on Saturday, November 6.

Prizes: The adult category will net the following cash prizes: 1st place - \$400, 2nd place - \$200 and 3rd place - \$100. The winner from each the high school, middle school and elementary school categories will have a choice between a \$75 cash prize or a \$150 US Savings Bond. Best of Show, which can be selected from any category, will win a \$75 cash prize. Winners will be notified ahead of time and prizes will be awarded at the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival.

Return of Images: Images will be returned **only** if submitted with a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. The Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival and South River EMC are not responsible for any damage, loss, delays or destruction in mailing.

Publication and Display: Submission of an entry constitutes agreement to allow photographs to be reproduced, published and/or exhibited for promotional purposes by the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival and South River EMC. Entrants grant the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival and South River EMC the right to publish their name, city and state in print or other media in connection with the photo contest.

I hereby certify that the photo I am about to submit is my original work and has never been copyrighted, or, if copyrighted, that I am the sole copyright owner. I am entering this photo as an honest and true effort of my personal creativity and unique artistic vision, and I understand that it will be published on the Internet and in promotional materials as my original work and under my own copyright. I attest that this photo has not been enhanced in any way using graphics software.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Entry Category (circle one):

Adult

High School

Middle School

Elementary School

***For Student Entries Only**

Parent's Signature _____

Photographers must complete and entry for EACH photograph entered for consideration in the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival Photo Contest.

Tips for Taking Good Photographs

- Ensure that your camera's flash is turned off when shooting landscapes, unless you require it to brighten a foreground object. Flash in a dusty, misty or foggy scene may cause glare by reflecting off the droplets of moisture or dust particles.
- The quality of lighting can be the most influential attribute of a successful landscape. Waiting for interesting lighting that is moody, dramatic or diffused usually pays off in a memorable photograph. Use a tripod to ensure sharpness, especially in low-light conditions.
- Don't let the weather stop you from capturing an attractive landscape. Rain can add a degree of softness and peacefulness to a scene. On an overcast day, be sure your scene has an area of color in it to counteract the overall dull lighting.
- Frame the scene so that it contains a center of interest - an object that draws the viewer's eye into the picture.
- Keep the rules of composition in mind when framing a scene. Lines, in particular, can be a strong factor in making an interesting landscape. Also, placing the center of interest off-center, in accordance with the rule of thirds, will create a harmonious composition.
- Lastly, landscape photography is often more horizontal than it is vertical, presenting the opportunity to shoot a panorama. If you are faced with a wide vista and your camera has a panorama mode, this is the time to select it. Cropping afterwards can achieve a similar purpose.

For a complete list visit www.photographytips.com