



Wanted: Pix That Click!

Enter your favorite photo in our
2021 Focus on Iowa Photo Contest.

OKAY, SHUTTERBUGS, we're now accepting entries in our 14th annual "Focus on Iowa Photo Contest".

Turn in the winning shot and you can claim our Grand Prize: a 2-day Mississippi River cruise for two, a vacation getaway worth over \$600.00.

We're looking for "captured moments"—candid photos like this shot taken in Winterset by Michael Callison of Urbandale.

"I love the fall colors and the way the bridge reflects on the water," Michael notes. "This is my favorite of the covered bridges."

Now it's your turn. Do you have a photo you're especially proud of that depicts the joy and beauty of living in Iowa? There are four categories in which you can enter it:

- **Iowa Scenery**—Photos that capture Iowa's scenic beauty, whether in small towns, on farms or in our state parks, or along the backroads (like Michael Callison's photo above).

- **Iowa People**—This category is for photos of Iowans just being themselves or enjoying "the good life" our state has to offer.

- **Iowa Humor**—We're looking for photos that bring a smile to your face... pet capers, people antics, goofy road signs, you name it. If it depicts humor Iowans can appreciate, it belongs in this category.

- **Corn-Fed Kids**—You likely have

photo albums or computer folders full of snapshots of your children or grandchildren "just being kids". Enter these family favorites that capture those endearing moments.

Our staff will carefully evaluate these photos and determine six finalists in each category. We'll then print these category finalists—one category each issue—and ask readers to vote for their favorite.

If your photo garners the most votes in your category, you'll take three of your family members or friends out to dinner at a restaurant of your choice, and *Our Iowa* will pick up the tab...including the tip!

Grand Prize River Cruise

Then, after the four category winners have been determined, we'll ask readers to vote again—this time to determine the Grand Prize winner. (See pages 60-61 for the photos in the running for this year's Grand Prize and cast a vote for your favorite photo.)

If your photo is voted the Grand Prize winner, you'll enjoy a 2-day Mississippi River cruise aboard the *Riverboat Twilight*. It's a riverboat built to recall the days when Victorian steamships graced the river. Mark Twain called them "floating palaces".

This leisurely cruise takes you from the Quad Cities upriver to Dubuque, where you'll spend the night at the swank Grand Harbor Resort. The next day, you'll head back downstream to complete your 188-mile journey. Along the way, you'll pass

Official Contest Rules

- You can enter your photos digitally or as 8x10 color prints. If you enter digital photos, it is important to submit only high-resolution photos. Because of our demanding printing standards, we cannot accept photos taken with cameras set on low-resolution/quality settings.

- Attach your name, postal address and daytime phone number for each photo submitted, plus the category in which the photo is to be entered. Also include pertinent details about where it was taken, any people who are in it, their relationship to you and why the photo is meaningful to you.

- The contest is open to anyone. No purchase/subscription necessary. But a contestant may enter no more than eight photos.

- You can email photos to us or submit them on a CD or as 8x10 color prints, making sure to include your contact information either way. If you email photos, send a separate email for each photo—attaching only one photo per email, please. (Make sure your email program is sending your photos at the highest resolution.) Multiple entries may be submitted on a single CD.

- Our staff will select six finalists for each category, based on the quality of the photos and how well they depict life in Iowa. Readers will then vote to determine the category winner as well as the Grand Prize winner.

- Sorry, but the photo CDs and prints cannot be returned, so be sure to retain copies. Your photos will be considered for use elsewhere in *Our Iowa*, so even if you aren't a finalist, you still may "get published".

- The deadline for submitting entries is **Monday, Dec. 7, 2020**. Email entries to: hotline@OurIowaMagazine.com and put "Photo Contest" in the subject line.

Or send your contest-worthy CD or color prints to: Focus on Iowa Photo Contest, *Our Iowa*, 1510 Buckeye Ave., Ames IA 50010.

majestic bluffs and islands inhabited by great blue herons and eagles, and even go through two locks.

Sound like a prize worth shooting for? Study the official contest rules—then take your best shot and enter. 📷

Side Note: If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.