

Send Us Your Snapshots!

Enter your favorite photo in our 2024 Focus on Iowa Photo Contest.

OKAY, SHUTTERBUGS—we're now accepting entries in our 17th annual "Focus on Iowa Photo Contest".

Turn in the winning picture and you'll claim our Grand Prize: a 2-day Mississippi River cruise for two, a unique Iowa getaway worth over \$800.00.

We're looking for "captured moments"—candid photos like this humorous Iowa scene (right) captured by Lori Nelson from Bayard.

"Have a photo that shows the joy of living in Iowa?"

"Everyone loves a parade," Lori stated, "and you couldn't miss this impressive guy with his head in the trees, juggling on stilts at the Bell Tower Festival in Jefferson."

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:

- **Iowa Scenery**—Photos that capture Iowa's scenic beauty, whether in small towns, along the backroads, in our state parks or on farms.

- **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 those family favorites that capture these endearing moments.

Our staff will carefully evaluate every photo 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 friends or family members out to dinner at a restaurant of your choice, and *Our Iowa* will pick up the tab...including the tip!

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

Grand Prize River Cruise

If your photo is voted the Grand Prize winner, you'll enjoy a 2-day cruise on the Mississippi River 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 riverfront Grand Harbor Resort.

The next day, you'll head back downstream to complete your 188-mile journey. Along the way, you'll pass majestic bluffs and islands inhabited by great blue herons and eagles, and even go through two locks.

Sound like a prize you'd like to shoot for? Study the official contest rules, then take your best shot and enter. 📷



Official Contest Rules

- We prefer digital images, and they must be submitted as high-resolution photos. Because of our demanding printing standards, we cannot accept photos taken with cameras set at low resolution, so check your settings when shooting.

- We will also accept 8x10 color photos printed on quality photo paper.

- Attach your name, postal address and daytime phone number for each photo submitted, plus the category in which you'd like to enter the photo. Also include pertinent details about where it was taken, any people who are in it, their relationship to you and why you chose the photo for our contest.

- This contest is open to anyone. No purchase or subscription necessary.

- A contestant may enter no more than eight photos.

- You can email digital photos to us by sending one photo per email and including your contact information in *each* email.

(Make sure your email program is sending your images at the highest resolution.)

- CDs and color prints can be mailed to the address below. Be sure to include your caption and contact information. 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 also be considered for use elsewhere in *Our Iowa*, so even if you aren't a finalist, you may still "get published".

- The deadline for submitting entries is **Monday, Dec. 4, 2023**. 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.