

# Best Photo of the Year!

*This “Iowa Kid” won the hearts of our readers in our Focus on Iowa Photo Contest.*

WE’VE COME TO LEARN that Iowa kids are tough to beat in our Focus on Iowa Photo Contest.

This year’s contest was a “photo finish”—with all four finalists featured in the Oct/Nov issue receiving lots of votes. Thank you, readers, for helping us make this tough choice! In the end, you chose the winner of the “Iowa Kids” category as the top photo of the year.

Sue Lorenzen of Holstein takes the win with the cute photo of her granddaughter Rose doing some heavy chicken lifting.

“Rose was making sure to eat her veggies so she would grow strong enough to pick up her huge house cat,” Sue explained. “While she was helping feed chickens, she suddenly snagged one to show off her muscles!”

Great photo, Sue!

For her winning entry, Sue will receive a 2-day Mississippi River cruise for two aboard the *Riverboat Twilight*.

Patterned after the “floating palaces” of yesteryear, this elegant riverboat with take our winner and a guest up the scenic Mississippi from the Quad Cities to Dubuque and back again. It’s a fabulous prize to shoot for!

Now, there’s still a little time left to enter the 2025 Focus on Iowa Photo Contest. But you’ll have to hurry, because the deadline is Friday, **December 6, 2024**.

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 along the backroads, on farms or in state parks, idyllic towns or gleaming cities.

• **Iowa People**—This category is for candid photographs 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 family 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 finalists—one category in each issue of the magazine—and ask readers to vote for their favorite.



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

Then, after the four category winners have been determined, we’ll ask readers to vote again—this time to determine the Grand Prize winner. If your photo is voted the Grand Prize winner, it will be “anchors aweigh” for your 2-day Mississippi River cruise for two. It’s a trip worth over \$800 that you’ll long remember.

Sound like a prize worth shooting for? Study the official rules below—then give us your best shot! 📷

## 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 Friday, **December 6, 2024**. Email entries to: [hotline@OurIowaMagazine.com](mailto:hotline@OurIowaMagazine.com) and put “Photo Contest” in the subject line. Or send your CD or color prints to: Focus on Iowa Photo Contest, *Our Iowa*, 1510 Buckeye Ave., Ames IA 50010.

Side Note: Be someone else’s sunshine. Be the reason someone smiles today.