

Images of Lincoln Memorial Garden 2026 Photo Contest

The Lincoln Memorial Garden (LMG) “Images of Lincoln Memorial Garden” Photography Contest encourages Springfield-area residents to document the beauty and use of Lincoln Memorial Garden.

RULES AND PROCEDURES	
Participation	Open to all Lincoln Memorial Garden visitors.
Photo Eligibility	Photo must be taken by the participant.
Photo Content	Photo must be taken at Lincoln Memorial Garden.
Photo Format and Size	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif. Size will need to be 8 inches on the shortest side if printed. Cell phone photos should be submitted at the “original” size. Scans of negative, transparencies or photographic prints are allowed.
Entry Fee	None.
Entry Method	Entries should be sent to photocontest@lincolnmemorialgarden.org Include with each entry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographers Name • Email and Telephone Contact Information • Category Title (include “15 or under” or “16+”) • If photographer is professional or amateur • Title of Photograph, if any • Image labeled as noted below
Image Label	Label file: LASTNAME FIRSTNAME CATEGORY AGE PHOTO# Example: Doe John C A 4 This entry is being submitted by Doe, John, Living Creatures, 16 and over, and is his fourth photo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J = 15 and under • A = 16 and over • Living Creatures = C • Botanicals = B • Landscapes = L • Celebrating Life at Lincoln Memorial Garden = G
Due Date	5 p.m., Friday, August 28, 2026
Number of Entries	Each participant may submit up to 10 total photos.
Alterations & Text usage Alterations	Although slight computer enhanced photos are allowed, such as crop, trimming, adjusting lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as changing colors or applying design styles, using computer graphics will disqualify an entry.
Text on Photographs	Beyond the storyboard and digital darkroom categories photographs MUST NOT contain camera or user placed text. This includes such things as date stamps, comments, or titles. Text or wording that is part of the photograph (i.e. photo of a street sign, etc.) is acceptable.
Original Work	Entry must be the original photographic work of the submitter and not secured from any other printed/electronic source. Any photo proven to be

	found as not original work will result in disqualification of ALL the participant’s submitted entries.
AWARDS, DISPLAY AND JUDGING	
A Best of Show	A Best of Show award will be awarded to one entry in each category.
Cash Award	Award winners will receive a \$50 cash prize, with “People’s Choice” receiving an additional \$50.
Judging and Results	Each photograph will be judged against a set of judging criteria and not against photographs of peers. Winning images will be determined based on total points awarded for each photograph. Judges will determine the placings and all decisions are final. Results will be available on or before October 10, 2022 and published on the LMG website and Facebook page.
RELEASES	
Content	Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited LMG reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
Copyright	LMG respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos should be based on a participant’s original photograph. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed.
Display and Future Usage Rights	Participant grants permission to LMG to the rights associated with the use of the photographic likeness, in promotional publications, such as the LMG website, Facebook page or Seasons newsletter. Winning images will be displayed in the LMG Executive Director’s office.
Liability Release	Lincoln Memorial Garden and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for non-displayed photographs.
Model and Property Releases	Each participant must have sufficient permission granted to both the photographer and LMG to publish and use as needed any recognizable locations or people photographed. Documentation should be retained by the participant and be available upon request from LMG. The Model Release Form can be downloaded from lincolnmemorialgarden.org .
DISQUALIFICATION	
Reasons for disqualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content. • Broken copyright rule. Photo is not the work of the participant. • Broken display and future rights usage rule. • Broken model and property release rule. • Category: Does not meet category criteria, rules or guidelines.
CATEGORIES	
A team of judges will select a winning entry from each category for each age group. During the October 2026 LMG Fall Festival , a “People’s Choice” will be selected from the eight winning submissions.	<p>Categories the same for both age groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Creatures (birds, mammals, frogs, toads, snakes, turtles, insects and other invertebrates) • Botanicals (Wildflowers, Fungi, Leaves, etc.) • Landscapes • Celebrating Life at Lincoln Memorial Garden—people using the Garden—hiking the trails, posing on the boulder, attending events, weddings, family portraits, graduation photos, pregnancy announcements, etc.