

South Downs National Park Astrophotography Competition 2024-2025

Terms and Conditions

By entering the competition you are deemed to accept these Terms and Conditions.

Closing date

The competition will open for entries on 4 November, 2024 and will close at midnight on Wednesday, 15 January 2025.

Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.

No responsibility is accepted for network, computer hardware or software failures of any kind which may restrict or delay the sending of your entry. No responsibility is accepted by SDNPA for entries lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete, or which cannot be entered for technical or other reasons. Proof of entry is not proof of receipt.

Entry details / Images

All competition entries must be submitted by using the uploading portal on the South Downs National Park website.

Entries will not be accepted by post or hand.

Entries must be JPG/JPEG files of at least 1Mb in file size (maximum file size 10Mb)

Entries may be taken using digital or film. But you must supply us with a digital JPG/JPEG version of the photo. Entries may be in black and white or in colour.

Retouching / manipulation of digital images is accepted provided that all works are original works and not copies of other people's works.

You may not enter an image that has been published elsewhere or has won a prize in any other photographic competition.

You may enter up to eight images in total in the competition – but please do fill in the required fields for each image.

Your image must be taken within the official boundaries of the South Downs National Park.

Your entry details must specify where the image was taken.

An image can be entered in one, two, three or all four categories, depending on how it matches the brief for the category. A maximum of eight images can be submitted per person across the four categories.

You can enter an image taken at any time in the past three years (since 1 January, 2022) up to and including 15 January, 2025.

Your photo should be original and not entered previously in the South Downs National Park astrophotography competition. Entries to our previous astrophotography competitions will not be considered.

There are four categories:

South Downs Dark Skyscapes – Can you capture a dramatic star-studded photograph of the landscape showing the cosmos above it? Pictures could include the aurora borealis as we're currently near the peak of the 11-year solar cycle, with high solar activity giving an increased chance of seeing the Northern Lights. The current peak is expected to last until mid-2025, according to the Royal Astronomical Society.

South Downs Life at Night – Can you capture an amazing shot of life at night in the National Park? This could include wildlife, heritage, towns, villages, people stargazing, trees, plants or fungi!

Magnificent Moon – Can you capture an amazing image of the moon above the South Downs landscape? Images of the moon should be alongside the landscape, buildings, towns, villages, cultural heritage or people in the South Downs.

Mobile phone category – This category is wide open and we just want your best shot of the Dark Skies on your mobile! It could be a snap of the moon or a picture of your family on a night-time walk. Let your creative spirit free!

Please note all images submitted must be taken within the South Downs National Park.

Prizes and judging

Shortlisting will take place in January 2025 after the competition entry deadline.

The winning images will be chosen from the shortlist by the judges and will be announced during the Dark Skies Festival in February 2025.

SDNPA may change the advertised panel of judges in the event of circumstances outside of its control.

The judges' decision is final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into in respect of their decision.

The first prize for each category is £100 and there is a runner-up prize of £50 for each category.

The prizes are non-transferable.

In the event of a limited number of entries in any category, the judges reserve the right not to award a prize.

Once the winner has been notified, he/she/they will need to provide full contact details including name, age, address, email address and photographic proof of identity in order to claim the prize.

By entering the competition you release SDNPA from and against all claims and damages arising from or in connection with your participation in the Competition. You agree to comply with these Rules of Entry.

Entrants' responsibilities

You are responsible for informing SDNPA of any changes to the information entered, in particular of any change of contact details at any time before the closing date.

You will not submit any photographs that are obscene, vulgar, pornographic, hateful, threatening, racist, sexist, discriminatory, or which otherwise violate any local or international laws. No nudity is allowed. Children and babies must be wearing at least a nappy and if your image does feature children you must have their parents'/guardian(s)' legal consent for the image to be published online and in hard copy. The SDNPA will ultimately decide if something is appropriate or not and whether it is eligible to be entered into the competition.

SDNPA staff, members and their immediate family members may enter this competition but will not be eligible to win a prize.

Copyright and usage

By submitting images to the competition, you confirm and warrant that:

- you are the sole author of each entry and that it is your original work
- you own the copyright and any other intellectual property rights of each image
- you have the permission of those pictured in the image (or, where the image shows any persons under 18, the consent of their parent or guardian) for the usage rights required in the section on licensing below and will indemnify SDNPA against any claims made by any third parties in respect of such infringement

- you have not licensed or disposed of any rights in the image that would conflict with uses to be made in the licensing section below
- You agree to take part in any post-competition publicity, which may include the National Park's Media and PR Officer contacting you with regard to a press release and PR opportunities and the image being used on the National Park Authority's social media channels for the Dark Skies Festival 2025.

By entering the competition, you grant the SDNPA a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to reproduce, enlarge, publish or exhibit, on any media, the images. This may include, but is not limited to:

- News coverage of the Dark Skies Festival
- SDNPA newsletter
- SDNPA website
- SDNPA Facebook page
- SDNPA Twitter feed
- SDNPA Instagram feed
- SDNPA LinkedIn feed
- Exhibitions
- Publications – such as leaflets, South Downs View magazine and reports
- for use in press releases to be distributed to national, regional and specialist press giving information about or promoting the Dark Skies of the National Park.

The photographer must be the sole author and owner of the copyright of photos entered in to the competition. You will retain full copyright for your image and, wherever possible, will be credited if your image is published by SDNPA. Failure to publish a credit due to error or oversight shall not be deemed a breach of this condition.

Please note that by entering the competition you are giving consent for the SDNPA to process your information for the purpose of administrating the competition. We will only contact you if your photo wins the competition or is selected for inclusion in our photo library. We will delete your information within a year of the close of the competition unless you ask us to sooner, the photo you have submitted wins the competition, or is selected for inclusion in our photo library. We will not share this information with any third party without your consent, unless we are required to do so by law. Your rights are set out in our Privacy Statement www.southdowns.gov.uk/privacy-statement-2/

SDNPA reserves the right to cancel or amend the competition, the rules and the terms and conditions of entry at any time and without prior notice. Any changes will be posted either within these terms and conditions or in the competition details.

The organiser of this competition is: SDNPA, The South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DH. Please email comms@southdowns.gov.uk with any queries.