



2018 Westcave Photo Contest Rules, Terms and Conditions

Westcave Preserve: The Crown Jewel of the Texas Hill Country

“Westcave Preserve is the jewel of the Texas Hill Country and its preservation is one of the great conservation achievements of the 20th century.” –Victor Emanuel, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

At this hidden oasis it is difficult to take a bad photo. Westcave Preserve features a spring-fed waterfall and creek, a verdant green canyon, towering trees, actively growing rock formations, diverse critters, and scenic Hill Country views. Visitors capture unique angles revealing distinctive points of view, astonished faces, and wildlife sightings. We want to showcase **the awe and beauty of the nature preserve through the lens of our visitors** with the 2018 Westcave Photo Contest.

We are looking for **photography taken at Westcave Preserve across an array of subjects: wildlife, plants, people, or the place**. Your photos help spread the word about Westcave Outdoor Discover Center and our mission.

The Photo Contest is open from Nov 2 through Nov 12, 2018. Photographers of all ages and skill levels, from amateurs to professionals, are invited to participate. The winner's photo will appear on Westcave's 2018 Holiday Card. In addition, the winner will receive the Westcave Pass + their choice of a Westcave prize.

Entering is easy! Photos can be submitted online in just a few minutes. See below for details.

Winning Photo & Prizes

Winner:

One **winner's photo will be featured on the 2018 Westcave Holiday Card**. In addition to a full card photo feature, the winner will:

- be highlighted in Westcave's e-newsletter in the coming year,
- receive the Annual Westcave Pass (good for free entry to the Preserve for you and 3 guests),
- have their choice of a Westcave book, poster, or t-shirt.

Other photos will be featured throughout the year in cameo appearances on our online and printed media.

Agreement to release your photos to WODC

Your entry in the contest constitutes your agreement to allow the use of your photos in WODC communications and promotions. This use may include printed postcards, the WODC website, online photo features, promotional cards and publications both online and off, emails and e-newsletters. Entrants retain ownership and copyright to their photographs. Credit will be given by WODC to the photographer where possible.

Eligibility

Westcave's 2018 Photo Contest is open to everyone, except employees of WODC, members of the Westcave Outdoor Discover Center Board of Directors, and their immediate families. Photographers of all ages are encouraged to enter. WODC will have the sole right to judge entrant eligibility and to verify this eligibility for the purpose of selecting contest winners.

Format

- Photos may be submitted in landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical) format.
- Photographs should be submitted electronically using the online submission form.
- If chosen as the winner, the image should:
 - be provided to WODC in its maximum quality at a **minimum of 180 ppi**,
 - be in jpeg or png file format,
 - be provided to WODC with these requirements **no later than 24 hours** after being notified.
- **Only color photos will qualify**; no black and white photos will be accepted
- Photos must be **free of watermarks or other text**
- Any images not following the above formatting will not be considered

Other Considerations

- There is no maximum for the number of photographs each contestant may enter
- Previously published material for which non-exclusive rights were granted may be entered as long as you still warrant that you retain full rights to the photo. You must disclose when and where the photo appeared previously upon submission.
- Photographs must be taken at Westcave Preserve
- WODC is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions

Release required for identifiable people

If people are identifiable in the photo, the contest participant is responsible for the consent of the parties involved. If a photo is selected for print that includes identifiable persons, the photographer must submit a release form from the person or persons in the image with the name, address, and signature of the parties on the release form.

Judging

Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition and ability to capture the awe and beauty of Westcave Preserve. Decisions made by the judges will be final. The judges will be a committee of Westcave staff.

The photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it actually appeared.

Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standards will be disqualified.

Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpening; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; and use of HDR (high dynamic range), where multiple exposures of the same scene are combined for a greater tonal range.

Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more photos, not of the same scene); or the use of artistic digital filters and effects which do not show the scene in its natural way.

Deadline

Online entries can be uploaded starting Nov 2, 2018 and no later than midnight on Nov 12, 2018. **The winner will be contacted on November 13th and will be requested to submit high resolutions images and release forms if applicable directly to WODC within 24 hours.** If the entrant does not respond in a timely fashion, a new winner will be chosen.

Questions and inquiries about the contest or rules can be emailed to julia@westcave.org