

West Virginia Wildlife Calendar Contest

Submitting Artwork for Judging

Paintings may depict popular game and fish species, or feature the state's other wildlife such as snakes, frogs, turtles, salamanders, bats, songbirds, small mammals and nongame fish. Paintings that don't include West Virginia wildlife will not be considered.

If you haven't been selected in the past, don't lose heart! Often there are several submissions of a particular species, and only one can be used each year. Paintings not chosen in previous years may be resubmitted. You may submit multiple entries.

Artists who submit a work that is selected receive a \$200 prize. If your art is selected for the cover, you'll receive an additional \$500. Paintings are chosen based on overall composition and quality, along with anatomical and contextual accuracy.

How to submit your art

1. Art must be in horizontal format with measurements of at least 14 inches wide and 11 inches high. Keep this ratio in mind when creating paintings.
2. To enter, you may submit the actual art or an electronic version of the art.
 - a. Mail actual art to:
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section
Attention: Wildlife Calendar Art Contest
738 Ward Road, P.O. Box 67
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
 - b. Send electronic versions to Sanya.D.George@wv.gov
3. If you submit the actual art, a high-resolution electronic image of the actual art is encouraged.
4. If you submit an electronic version of the art, the art must be capable of being sized at 14 ½ inches wide by 11 ½ inches high. At least a 300 dpi image is preferred. A high-quality print of an electronic image also may be submitted.
5. Artist must complete and submit three simple forms with their artwork:
 - a. Wildlife Release Form
 - b. Copyright Notice Form
 - c. Intent to Enter Form
6. If your art is selected for the final round of judging, the actual art will have to be submitted.

For more information, please contact Sanya George at (304) 637-0245 or Sanya.D.George@wv.gov.

Wildlife Art Release

I, _____, on this
_____ day of _____ 2025/2026,

do hereby grant the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources the right to use my painting(s)
of _____

in the 2027 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar. In consideration thereof, I understand that I will
receive \$200 for use of each monthly selection and \$500 for any image selected for the
calendar cover, from The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. I further understand that
my painting will be used only for the wildlife calendar or in publicity for the calendar and the
painting will be returned to me as soon as photographic reproduction has been made. After this
is accomplished, I am free to use the painting, or prints of it, as I see fit.

I also declare that the artwork described does not infringe on any art copyright law.

Signed _____

Date _____

West Virginia Wildlife Calendar Contest

Governor Patrick Morrisey

WEST VIRGINIA



Director Brett W. McMillion

Indication of intent to Enter a Painting(s) in the
Contest for Selection of the **2027** West Virginia Wildlife Calendar

Date _____

Artist's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources,
Wildlife Resources Section
Attention: Wildlife Calendar Art Contest
738 Ward Road
P.O. Box 67
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Remember

High resolution electronic images of paintings must be delivered to the Elkins Operations Center by February 12th, 2026, for selection consideration!

Questions

Please contact Sanya George at: (304) 637-0245 ext. 00363 or by email at Sanya.D.George@wv.gov

This form may be copied for use by other artists not contacted by the DNR.

West Virginia Wildlife Calendar Contest

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES | WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305 | ph (304) 558-2771 | fax (304) 558-3147 | WVdnr.gov

Copyright Notice

In almost all instances, it is safe to say when an artist is creating a painting from a photograph that someone else has taken; the artist is violating the photographer's copyright. The artist is creating an unauthorized copy or derivative work from a protected photograph. It makes no difference that the photograph is being reproduced in a different medium, with different dimensions, or in different colors.

The painting still constitutes an infringement of copyright.

If you (the artist) do paint from photographs, the only way to be sure you are not violating the copyright law, is to request permission, in writing, to copy the work from the owner of the copyright, who may be the photographer or the publisher of the magazine, book, or other print media in which it appears.

I, _____,

hereby state that the painting(s) I submit is (are) all original. If the painting(s) is (are) copied from a photograph(s), either I took the photograph(s) or show a copy of written permission to use that photograph(s).

Signed _____ Date _____

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Wildlife Calendar Rules for Submitting Artists

1. Only paintings that feature WV native wildlife will be considered. We can't accept paintings of exotic animals such as lions, elephants, giraffes, etc.
2. Extinct animals that once lived in WV may be submitted.
3. Domestic agriculture animals such as cows, horses, pigs, chickens, etc. by themselves are not considered to be wildlife and won't be accepted.
4. Scenes with hunters or hunting dogs may be submitted.
5. Scenes with fishermen may be submitted.
6. Botanical themed scenes may be submitted as long as there is wildlife in the painting.
7. Artwork must be in any color media paint which may include acrylics, oils, watercolors, tempera, colored pencils, etc.
8. Black ink or charcoal drawings are not permitted.
9. Paintings must be on canvas, poster board or any other flat surface normally used by artists.
10. Paintings on slate roof shingles, saw blades, turkey feathers, shelf mushrooms and lampshades will not be accepted.
11. High quality prints and copies of original paintings are acceptable, since the original may have been sold and impossible to retrieve.
12. Artists can submit as many pieces as they want, but only two can be included in any one year calendar.
13. Current WVDNR full or part time employees and their immediate families are ineligible for the contest.
14. No photographs will be accepted.
15. No photographs that have been computer manipulated to make them look like paintings will be accepted.
16. Artists are reminded that the calendar format is horizontal, with measurements of 14 inches wide by 11 inches high, and should keep this ratio in mind when creating paintings.

17. Vertical, portrait orientated paintings are accepted, but they may have to be severely cropped to fit the horizontal, landscape format.
18. A \$200 prize is awarded for each monthly painting selected.
19. A \$500 prize is awarded for the calendar cover.
20. If two pieces of one artist's work are both chosen and one of these is selected for the cover, the maximum award possible per year is \$700; \$500 for the cover and \$200 for each of two months chosen.
21. Paintings are selected based on overall composition and quality along with anatomical and contextual accuracy.
22. The quality of the electronic image or submitted print is extremely important for judging the artwork.
23. Winning artists will receive 25 free calendars for their use no matter if one or two paintings are chosen or if the cover is selected.
24. If the artist paints from a photograph, the photograph must have been taken by the artist or the artist has received written permission from the photographer to use that photograph.
25. Paintings from deceased artists can be submitted by their family members.
26. Artists must pay for shipping when sending in their artwork if contacted for final judging.