

Whatcom Water Week 2026

Water- It's Everybody's Business

September 12 - 20

11th Annual Whatcom Water Week Photo Contest

Celebrate Whatcom Water Week 2026 by seeing water through a new lens! The Whatcom Watersheds Information Network (WWIN) invites photographers of all ages and skill levels to enter the 11th Annual Photo Contest. The theme, "Water- It's Everybody's Business," celebrates the many ways water shapes our lives and the character of Whatcom County. Think beyond the obvious and capture water in all its forms – from breathtaking landscapes to everyday moments.

Contest Categories

- **Favorite Water Spot:** photos showcasing your favorite place to watch the sunset, see salmon spawn, view eagles and other wildlife... you know... the place you like to go and hang out! And remember to show off your favorite spot in any season, winter, spring, summer or fall.
- **Working Water:** Photos showcasing how water supports our livelihoods – from farms, fishing, and businesses to home gardens and landscapes – and the many ways people use water wisely and efficiently.
- **Protecting and Restoring Our Water:** photos showcasing thing you do to protect or restore our water resources... from innovative ideas at home to supporting work in our community, there are so many ways we safeguard our water.
- **People having Fun:** photos showcasing how you have fun with water in Whatcom County. The possibilities are endless and remember- water takes many forms, liquid, ice, snow, fog!

How Do I Enter?

1. Submit your photo between August 1 and September 30, 2026, at <https://woobox.com/ywcs2b>
2. After uploading your photo to the Whatcom Water Week photo contest page at <https://woobox.com/ywcs2b> please also send an electronic copy of your photo (at full resolution please) to wwinphotocontest@gmail.com.

How Do I Win?

A panel of judges will select one winner in each category. In addition, there will be winners for Fan Favorite, Sponsor Favorite, and Best Camera Phone Photo – these are selected from all entries, regardless of category. (not category specific).

All entries, except for Fan Favorite, are judged anonymously (without attribution) to ensure fairness. Fan Favorite voting is open to the public, and photographer names are visible on the contest site.

Anyone can vote for Fan Favorite between October 1-12 by visiting <https://woobox.com/ywcs2b>, browsing through the pages of the photo gallery, and submitting a vote. As votes are cast, photos automatically move to the front of the gallery based on vote count- this is a built-in function of the contest platform.

Winners will be notified via email after October 21.

What Do I Win?

Photographers of winning photos from each of the four categories plus the Fan Favorite, Sponsor Favorite, and Best Camera Phone Photo will receive local prizes. Winning photos may be featured on WWIN note cards and Whatcom Water Week promotional materials. All contest participants will be notified when the note cards are available for pick up.

Contest Rules

- Photos must be taken within Whatcom County.
- Photos must be submitted between August 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026.
- Photos must be submitted by the photographer who took the photo.
- Photos shall not have names or businesses that would identify the photographer stamped or water-marked on the photo.
- Read and agree to the media/photo release agreement below.
- There is no limit to the number of photos submitted by individuals, but each photo can only be submitted once.
- Each photo must be submitted with all required fields filled out.
- Photos that include nudity, profanity or inappropriate behavior or content will be removed and deemed ineligible for the contest.

WWIN Water Week Photo Contest Media/Photo Release Agreement

I hereby grant the Whatcom Watersheds Information Network (WWIN) and agents of WWIN permission to use my photographs or other digital media that I submitted as an entry/entries to the WWIN photo contest in any and all of their publications, including web-based publications and websites, without payment or other consideration. Authorized use by WWIN or agents of WWIN is limited to non-commercial uses that support WWIN's mission including but not limited to publications, social media, and websites, associated with the agents' organization. I understand that my name will be used to credit my work whenever feasible but giving credit may not always be possible depending on the application.

1. I certify that the media/image(s) for which I am granting permission to WWIN is my own work and that any person appearing in my submitted work has given permission for their likeness, which includes their face, to be used. If the photo includes anyone under the age of 18, I certify that I am the guardian or parent or have the permission from the guardian or parent to use their likeness, which includes their face if it is part of the photo. I accept any liability that may arise from the use of a person's likenesses as my responsibility, with WWIN held blameless for such use.
2. I understand and agree that all media/photo(s) that are entered into the WWIN photo contest become the property of WWIN and will not be returned and may be used by WWIN and its agents without further notification or permission, and that I retain the ability to use the original image in my own materials or for my own use.
3. I hereby irrevocably authorize WWIN or its agents to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, and distribute the media/photo(s) that I enter into the WWIN photo contest for any lawful purpose and waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.
4. I hereby hold harmless, release, and forever discharge the WWIN from all claims, demands, and causes of action, which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I have read and understand the above photo media/photo release. I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age, or, if I am under 18 years of age, I have obtained the required understanding and consent of my parents/guardians.