

Invitation to Participate in Engagement in a Time of Telework 2020 Photography Contest

The OEEOD Diversity Program's Photography Contest Subcommittee invites you to enter your best two-dimensional photograph into the April 2020 Engagement in the Time of Telework Photography Contest!

Appropriate subject matter may include the following:

- Home office set-up or photo of someone/you working
- Homeschool set-up or your children learning
- In-home date night
- Before and After shot of a home improvement project
- Nature (photo from your garden, a walk, etc.)
- Staycation
- Home work out

Procedure for Entry

Send an e-mail with photo attached to: diversity@pto.gov

Your e-mail should contain “PHOTOGRAPHIC ENTRY AND ENTRY DATE” in the subject line and the following information:

- Name
- E-mail address
- Telephone number
- Category

Photography Contest Rules

Entrants: All USPTO employees .

By submitting to this competition, participants agree to be bound by the competition rules and disclaimers; this contest is for online submissions only and the contest is void where prohibited by law.

One entry per category is allowed for each participant, per each contest period. Contest period will allow for a period of time for submission and a period of time for voting and can change without any notice. The winning photos will at least be displayed in The Weekly and OEEOD Instagram page, and may include other USPTO employee engagement sources such as Twitter and Facebook.

Photo submissions:

All photos must be original work, taken by the entrants and entrants must own and control the contents of the photographs. No intellectual property rights (copyright, trademark, and privacy rights, intellectual and moral right) of any person or entity should be infringed.

The photos must be in its original state and cannot be altered, modified, edited or enhanced in any way including removing, adding, distorting subjects in a frame. Cropping so long as it does not affect the authenticity and/or genuineness of the image and black and white, are permitted. Photoshop or comparable program enhancements are strictly prohibited. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization for red eye will be disqualified. Minor flaws, skin blemishes, dust, and scratches can be removed. HDR, panoramas, of the same images are acceptable. If altered significantly, the entrants must explain how they still comply when they submit their images. Screenshots and selfies are acceptable long as all individuals in the photo agree to the terms of the rules or permit the use of the image in writing. Greenscreen imaging is not acceptable.

All photos must contain original EXIF metadata information except if it was not originally taken using a digital camera (i.e., film, screenshots). The normal editing that is allowed should not significantly change the original EXIF metadata information and the EXIF metadata should not be manipulated with the exception of removing GPS data, which the contest will attempt to remove if not removed by entrants.

The photos should not contain borders, logos, copyright watermarks, identifying marks or other visible references, or marks on the image that identify a service, business, individual, or entity. The purpose should not be to advertise or market anything. Violation of any rules shall cause for disqualification or being banned from current or future contest based on the severity and nature of the violation.

The only acceptable format is jpg or jpeg. Formats that are unacceptable include, but are not limited to .mp3, .mp4, audio, video, .gif, .png, .tiff, or .bmp.

All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity via film or digitally. Slides, photographs or negatives may be scanned for entry into the competition.

Images should be a minimum of 100-150 dpi or 600 pixels wide to a maximum size of 2800 x 2000 pixels in width. Files should not be larger than necessary. Please stay under 20 MB (subject to online limitations which may be smaller for attachments). Pictures taken by recent mobile phones and cameras should be fine. We want pictures that can be enlarged without distortion. Therefore, pictures the size of stamps and wallet size will be too small.

Photos should not include or portray inappropriate, offensive, provocative, violence, human rights and/or environmental violations, or anything deemed political. The photographs should not contain any unauthorized, misleading, threatening, abusive, harassing, defamatory, violate social morals or scandalous, content. Photographs should not contain subject matter that promotes harm, hatred, bigotry or racism against any person or group, or promote discrimination based on age, race, religion, sexual orientation or nationality. They should not contain anything that would be considered criminal or cause civil liability or violate any laws. The entries should not promote an agenda/message, politics, illegal drugs, firearms, any unsafe or dangerous activities. This list is not deemed exhaustive.

Entrants bear all responsibility should any/all legal situation arise from any undesired submission not covered by the rules.

All photographs submitted will not be returned for any reason. Participants are requested to keep and/or maintain a copy of their submission. Submissions received after a deadline will not be accepted for the current contest period; however, they may be entered for the following contest period.

The Photography Contest Subcommittee reserves the right to change, alter or decide the rules of the contest for any entrant at any time, including disqualifying and/or withdrawing any contestant and/or photographs, including to cancellation of the contest itself when and if deemed necessary.

Photo Title

You are required to provide description and unique title for each image that you submit, and the first and last name of entrants.

Process

Every photograph submitted is subject to a process of moderation, and the total entries will be reduced to a manageable limit of photographs and a message will be e-mailed to allow individuals to cast their votes via survey monkey.

Entrants or their representatives/surrogates should not encourage or otherwise influence voting for a particular photograph(s). All USPTO participants ,to include (non-entrants and entrants or collectively USPTO employees) can only vote once per contest period per category. The photograph with the most votes will win unless it is determined that a rule was violated. Votes must be submitted by deadline set during the contest period. Only one photograph will be selected as the winner during each contest period.

Voting

Voting will be conducted electronically via Survey Monkey. The votes will be tallied to determine a winner during each contest period and the same photograph cannot be resubmitted more than once.

All photographs submitted will be subject to display and advertising by the Department of Commerce/ USPTO on any media platforms, including the names of the entrants any participants in the photos regardless whether they win or not.

The decisions of the contest are final and not subject to any appeal.

The term contest is deemed to include but not limited to Photographic Contest Subcommittee, OEEOD, USPTO, and DOC.

Any questions related to this invitation and contest should be submitted to:

diversity@pto.gov

We look forward to having your entry in our April 2020 Engagement in the Time of Telework Photography Contest!