

Photography competition "**Discover Me! - 2021**"

1. **The aim of the competition**

- 1.1. The aim of the photography competition "**Discover Me!**" is to discover, photograph and thus introduce the nature's smaller living or nonliving things or other interesting phenomena, whether they are insects, birds, animals, plants, mushrooms, berries, leaves, weather phenomena, or something totally unusual. Special things can also be found in the landscape. The key is that what you are photographing requires a special discovery or a special story.
- 1.2. Everything must be photographed in nature in its natural environment either in Estonia or in Latvia.
- 1.3. We invite all participants to visit the Vapramäe-Vellavere-Vitipalu and Elva recreational area hiking trails (www.vvvs.ee). There are special prizes for photos taken in this area.

2. **Participants**

- 2.1. All nature enthusiasts are welcome, except organizers and members of the jury.
- 2.2. You can participate in three age groups:
 - 2.2.1. A - Children up to 11 years old
 - 2.2.2. B - Young people aged 12-16
 - 2.2.3. C - 17 years and older

3. **Content specifications for photographs**

- 3.1. Photographs must be made in the wild in Estonia or Latvia.
- 3.2. Please do not send photos of cultivated plants and domestic animals (except children, age group A).
- 3.3. We expect photographs of following things:
 - 3.3.1. nature photos of things that are not usually discovered;
 - 3.3.2. tiny natural things;
 - 3.3.3. special activities, special behaviours, special phenomena;
 - 3.3.4. larger objects or their details if they are special and require special discovery.
- 3.4. Submitted photographs must be black-and-white or colour photographs that have not been previously awarded at any other photo competition.
- 3.5. It is allowed to crop, adjust full or partial brightness, contrast, saturation and sharpness when preparing photographs for submission.
- 3.6. Digitally stitched panoramas, high dynamic range images (HDR), focus stacking are allowed. Use of these special methods must be shown at the end of the description of the photographs.
- 3.7. It is not permitted to add or remove objects (including frames, author's name, etc.), except the removal of dust spots or least non-image elements.
- 3.8. When processing images, please take into account the good practice of nature photography and follow the principles of authenticity so that images and their adjustments do not deceive the viewer or misrepresent the reality of nature.

4. **Technical specifications for photographs**

- 4.1. One participant can submit up to 10 photos.
- 4.2. Submitted files must have at least 3000 pixels along the longest dimension. In case of children (age group A) at least 2000 pixels along the longest dimension are allowed.
- 4.3. Please submit your photos as JPEGs (JPG) file format, saved at the highest quality setting.

5. **Submission of the photographs**

- 5.1. Photographs must be submitted digitally via the link at https://vvvs.ee/et/fotokonkurss_vvvs/. VVV SA assumes no responsibility for interruptions, interference, etc. of the Internet.
- 5.2. When uploading files following information must be added into corresponding fields in English:
 - 5.2.1. Contact details of the author (given name, surname, postal address, telephone, age and e-mail) and an alias name. Please do not use your actual name as alias name.
 - 5.2.2. Location (place and country) where the photograph was taken. For example:
 - Vapramäe Nature Reserve - Estonia;
 - Hellenurme Manor Park - Estonia;
 - Gauja National Park-- Latvia;
 - ...
 - 5.2.3. As a description of the photograph write the background story, what is on the photo (subject; species when possible; behaviour; natural phenomenon observed etc.). your thoughts that were the motives for taking the photograph.
 - 5.2.4. The jury has the right to ask participants for the original unedited (raw or out-of-camera jpg) image files.
 - 5.2.5. The participants are responsible for the authorship of their submitted photographs and for the correctness of the information provided about himself and the photographs.
6. **Competition deadline.** The deadline for submission of works is October 1, 2020.
7. **Evaluation of photographs**
 - 7.1. Submitted photographs are evaluated in three age groups.
 - 7.2. Nature photographers Arne Ader and Urmas Tartes are the members of the jury. The jury will select the main prize from all submitted photographs, age group awards and special awards. The jury has the right to refuse to evaluate the photographs if their technical specifications, content or submitted information does not comply the competition rules.
 - 7.3. Internet voting will take place October 4-8, 2021 on the website www.vvvs.ee. VVV SA assumes no responsibility if the Internet voting is mixed by third parties. The jury will not participate in the online voting.
8. **Awards and prizes**
 - 8.1. The main prize will be 320 euros.
 - 8.2. In each age group awards will be as follows:
 - 8.2.1. First prize - 64 euros,
 - 8.2.2. Second prize,
 - 8.2.3. Third prize.
 - 8.3. The jury will select prizes for photographs taken at the Elva Recreation Area and VVV hiking trails, for the best winter photo and other special awards.
 - 8.4. Special awards include competition shirts, mugs; books about nature.
 - 8.5. The prizes are awarded by the jury. The jury has right to redistribute the awards when necessary (For example, in the case of equal works, give out 2 same level prizes or, in case of absence of works, omit corresponding awards). The jury's decision is final.
 - 8.6. In the online voting up to three prizes are awarded for each age group according to the people's favourites. If several photographs from the same author reach a prizewinning place in the online voting, only one prize will be awarded for the highest ranked work, i.e. one author will not receive multiple prizes.

9. **Image use.** VVV SA can use the submitted photographs to introduce the photo competition and to publish the results in its information and presentation materials, on the Internet site, in educational events organized by VVV SA and in the publications of sponsors of the competition without asking the author for permission, showing the author's name at the photograph or in the list of authors.
10. **The results** of the competition will be announced on October 22, 2021 at the competition award ceremony and on the VVV SA website www.vvvs.ee.
 - 10.1. The prizes will be awarded at the award ceremony on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Waide Motel in Tartu County, Estonia, starting at 16.00.
 - 10.2. If the winner of the competition is unable to participate in the award ceremony, the VVV SA will arrange for the prizes to be received.
11. **Info**
 - 11.1. e-mail: triinu@vvvs.ee
 - 11.2. phone +372 5254172 (Triinu Pertels).
 - 11.3. Website: www.vvvs.ee
12. **Supporters.** The photo contest is supported by:
 - 12.1. Vapramäe-Vellavere-Vitipalu SA