



## 2024 Photo Contest

### Capturing the Value of Geoprofessionals

The official rules of Geoprofessional Business Association's 2024 Digital Photo Contest.

#### Eligibility

The Digital Photo Contest ("Photo Contest") is open only to employees of GBA Member-Firms.

The Photo Contest is sponsored by:  
Geoprofessional Business Association  
401 N. Washington St., Suite 600  
Rockville, MD 20850



#### Entry Period

The Photo Contest begins at 12:00am EST on July 1, 2024 and ends at 11:59pm EST on August 31, 2024 (the "Entry Period"). Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible. GBA's computer is the official time-keeping device for the Photo Contest.

#### What to Enter

GBA is committed to promoting the value of geoprofessionals and we want to see it through your eyes. For our 2024 Photo Contest, we'd like to know: "How do you depict the day in the life of a geoprofessional?" Is it field activities? Is it meeting with colleagues and clients? Is it performing testing in the laboratory? How is safety incorporated into your work? How are you positively impacting the world? Capture those vibrant moments and express what being a geoprofessional means to you!

To ensure eligibility for the contest, please submit files no larger than 4MB at the time of entry. Higher resolution files may be requested should an entry be preselected to be awarded a prize or an honorable mention. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

Entries may originate in any format — including, but not limited to digital files, digital prints, color transparencies, color prints, or black and white prints — so long as they are submitted

electronically in a .JPEG .jpg, or.png form. Multiple exposures that have been combined to produce a single "High Dynamic Range" image are acceptable.

Entries should include metadata if possible. Caption information should include:

- Category for Which This Photo is Submitted
- Name of location (ex: Bedford Town Hall – Construction Phase 2)
- City
- State/Province
- Country
- Detailed caption of subject matter

Previously published material for which non-exclusive rights were granted may be entered as long as you still maintain the right to grant us a license (see "Your Rights" below). You must be able to disclose when and where the photo appeared previously to Geoprofessional Business Association upon request.

If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted and must be able to provide copies of those releases to Geoprofessional Business Association upon request.

The following submissions are ineligible:

- Photographs that include logos or branded material.
- Images that exhibit unsafe work practices.
- Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright.
- Photos that contain objectionable or inappropriate content.
- Images that involve damage to the environment by the photographer.
- Images taken more than three years prior to the beginning date of the Contest (July 1, 2024).

Geoprofessional Business Association shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.

## **How to Enter**

All images must be submitted through our photo submission e-mail address ([info@geoprofessional.org](mailto:info@geoprofessional.org)), with the title "GBA 2024 Photo Contest Submittal" and include in the e-mail all required fields, including name, email, and other information about your photo submission.

You can select an image directly from your computer desktop, or submit images from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for consideration in the contest. Digital images that are sent via mail will not be accepted.

You may enter one photo for each category (Geotechnical, Environmental, Construction Testing and Inspection, Safe Working Practices, and Client Collaboration), but you may not use an agency or automated system to enter. GBA reserves the right to reject any additional entries or entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your unconditional agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and GBA's decisions, which are final and binding. You cannot win a prize unless you comply with all requirements in these Official Rules.

Entrants may be asked to supplement their submission (such as with a paragraph about their photo or the highest resolution version of their photo) anytime on or after September 1, 2024.

## Judging

Photos will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit, and subject matter relevance to highlight the geoprofessional practice. Judging will be conducted by a panel of GBA employees and a group of guest judges to be selected by GBA at its sole discretion (the “Panel”). The Panel will evaluate all valid entries and pick the following winners in the following categories:

1. **Overall** (3 winners. 1 first prize, 1 runner-up, 1 second runner-up): You’ve nailed it. Your images rise above the rest and encapsulate the geoprofessions in a stunning way.

2. **Categories:** 1. Geotechnical Services (1 winner) 2. Environmental Services (1 winner); 3. Construction Materials Testing and Inspection (1 winner) 4. Safe Working Practices (1 winner) and 5. Client Collaboration (1 winner). Each category winner will clearly illustrate the specific area of interest as it pertains to the day in the life of a geoprofessional.

All winners and honorable mentions will be notified of their status within 14 days of September 1, 2024 and will appear on the [www.geoprofessional.org](http://www.geoprofessional.org) website. All winners will also be showcased at an upcoming GBA conference.

All judging decisions are final. Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging.

GBA will notify the winner via the contact information provided at the time of entry.

## Potential Winner Requirements

Must be employed by a GBA Member-Firm throughout the duration of the contest.

## Prizes

GBA will award the following prizes.

One (1) Overall grand prize winner will receive:

- A \$100 Gift Card
- A photo mention in Geoprofessional Business Association’s *NEWSlog*.
- Recognition at an upcoming GBA conference.
- Winners Plaque
- Mention on GBA’s digital presences.

One (1) Overall runner-up winner will receive:

- A \$50 gift card
- A photo mention in Geoprofessional Business Association’s *NEWSlog*.
- Runners Up Plaque
- Recognition at an upcoming GBA conference.
- Mention on GBA’s digital presences

One (1) Overall second runner-up winner will receive:

- A \$50 gift card
- A photo mention in Geoprofessional Business Association's *NEWSlog*.
- Runners Certificate
- Recognition at an upcoming GBA conference.
- Mention on GBA's digital presences

Five (5) Category Winners (Geotechnical, Environmental, Construction Testing and Inspection, Safe Working Practices, and Client Collaboration) will receive:

- Recognition at an upcoming GBA conference.
- Category Winner Certificate
- Mention on GBA's digital presences

Prizes will only be shipped to an address in North America.

All winners are responsible for paying any income taxes and any and all other costs and expenses not listed above. Any prize details not specified above will be determined by GBA, in its sole discretion. A prize may not be transferred and must be accepted as awarded.

## Questions

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to [info@geoprofessional.org](mailto:info@geoprofessional.org).

## Your Rights

Your photographs help Geoprofessional Business Association highlight the value of geopprofessionals to our communities and to our world. Thank you for helping to further our mission through your photography.

GBA will retain all rights to any photograph you submit -- including ownership.

If you submit a photograph to enter the Photo Contest, you grant Geoprofessional Business Association a royalty-free, nonexclusive right to:

- Display the photograph on the Photo Contest submission website, the GBA website ([www.geoprofessional.org](http://www.geoprofessional.org)) and on all GBA media outlets.
- Allow third parties to share the photograph on the following social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Upon submission of your photograph, you grant Geoprofessional Business Association a royalty-free, nonexclusive right, in perpetuity, to:

- Use the photograph on the Internet and in Social Media in support of our mission and strategic direction.
- Use the photograph in Geoprofessional Business Association's internal and external communications materials including but not limited to web sites and web publications, fact sheets, fund raising publications, advertising, multimedia, presentation and membership services, annual report and GBA magazine.

- Provide your photograph to other individuals and organizations for Conservancy-related use in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, videos, membership premiums, and the like.
- Use, in connection with the Photo Contest, your name, city, state and country of residence in promotions and other publications.
- Retain a digital copy of your photograph that will be archived in GBA photo library and accessible to GBA staff via GBA internal online photo archive.

## **General Conditions**

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Photo Contest is impaired in any way, GBA may, in its sole discretion, either: (a) suspend the Photo Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Photo Contest; or (b) award the prize(s) from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment. GBA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any individual who tampers with the operation of the Photo Contest, violates these Official Rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. GBA's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Proof of sending any communication to GBA by mail shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by GBA. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The Photo Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

## **Release and Limitations of Liability**

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless GBA, officers, directors, employees, and agents (the "Released Parties") from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Photo Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) printing errors; (d) late or undelivered mail; (e) errors in the administration of the Photo Contest; or (f) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorney's fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

## **Privacy and Publicity**

Any information you submit as part of the Photo Contest will be used in accordance with GBA's Privacy Policy. The information you provide when you enter is provided to GBA. Except where prohibited, you consent to GBA's use of your name in any list of winners (if applicable) and for promotional purposes in any media without further payment or consideration.

## **Disputes**

You agree that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the Photo Contest or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court located in Maryland. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of GBA in connection with the Photo Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Maryland,

without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of Maryland any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Maryland.

### **Questions**

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to [info@geoprofessional.org](mailto:info@geoprofessional.org).