West Smethwick Park Amateur Photography competition

Do you love West Smethwick Park?

If so, you can help us celebrate the park’s 125th anniversary by taking part in our calendar photography competition.

We want you to get your camera out and take photos of our wonderful park.

Enter your photos into our competition and yours could be chosen to appear in the 2021 West Smethwick Park calendar to be sold by the Friends of West Smethwick Park.

All money we raise will contribute to our Friends group’s activities and your name will appear on the calendar alongside your photo (unless you wish to be uncredited).

To choose the 12 photos for our calendar, our competition will have three rounds through the year, each with its own theme.

1 January 2020 – 31 March 2020 – The theme is Together
1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020 – The theme is Movement
1 July 2020 – 11 October 2020 – The theme is Colour

The closing date is midnight on the final day of each round. Four winners and four runners-up will be selected per round.

We have five rules:

1) Photos must be taken at West Smethwick Park during the specific time that the competition round is running.
2) There must be no identifiable people in the photo.
3) Photos need to be landscape/horizontal (not portrait).
4) The image must be high resolution and of a good enough quality to reproduce in print. We recommend images are, at the very least, 3,000 pixels wide – the higher quality the better.
5) You must be an amateur photographer.

Each round will be judged by a different group or partner – judges will be announced over the course of the competition.

The winning four photos in each round will feature in the 2021 calendar.

Each winning and runner-up entry will receive a free West Smethwick Park 2021 calendar.

To enter:

Email your photos marked ‘WSP Photo Competition’ by the last date of the entry round to wsp_project@sandwell.gov.uk or post to West Smethwick Park Competition, Parks and Green Spaces, Sandwell Council Operations & Development Centre, Direct 2 Industrial Park, Roway Lane, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3ES.
Don’t forget to include your name, a contact number, where in the park your photo was taken and the date the photo was taken. We will accept a maximum of two entries per person per competition round.

**Full rules, terms and conditions**

Sandwell Council is aware that digital photography does allow for some image enhancement. You can enter images that have had spots, scratches or other blemishes removed. You can work on the colour or enhance the image for the sake of the composition. You can also crop the image to improve composition.

We will not accept composite images – entries that stitch two or more separate photographs together to make one image – or entries that superimpose elements photographed separately onto an image.

Sandwell Council and the judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively treated to alter its authenticity.

Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half of their annual income from the sale of their photographs.

Entrants submitting their entry by post must mark each entry with their name, address and contact telephone number (both daytime and evening) and email address.

Entrants under the age of 18 will need to include the name, address, contact telephone and email address of their parent or guardian and the parent or guardian will need to give written consent for their child to take part. This can be in the form of a signed and dated letter. Email entrants under the age of 18 will need their parents’ or guardians’ consent to send the email and contain their name, phone number and email address, and to consent to their child’s participation.

There will be four winning entries per competition round and these winning entries shall appear in the calendar, to be sold in aid of the Friends of West Smethwick Park. The finalists’ photos may also be published on Facebook, the Sandwell Council website and partners’ webpages and used in other promotions of the competition.

In the event of a technical problem or evidence of impropriety, the judges shall have the final decision. The judges’ decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photographs entered. Where an individual or a residential property belonging to someone other than the photographer is featured, the photographer must seek permission and be prepared to provide written consent, when requested by Sandwell Council.

Entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs.

We are looking for original photographs, so entries must not have won any national or international competition prize previously. For the purposes of this competition, ‘national’ refers to the whole of the UK – or to individual national competitions in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
Entrants will retain copyright of the photographs that they submit. By entering the competition, all entrants grant to Sandwell Council the right to publish and exhibit their photographs on its website and social media in perpetuity. Entrants whose photographs are one of the 12 winning entries or finalists or selected to appear in the West Smethwick Park Calendar 2020 to Sandwell Council (including other publishers authorised by Sandwell Council) the further rights to publish and exhibit their photographs in print, on their respective websites, social media or in any other media in perpetuity. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses.

Winners and runners-up may be asked to take part in post-competition publicity. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee that every broadcast or media use of the photographs will include the photographers' names.

Entrants must ensure that the photograph is not used to publicise or promote companies, individuals, organisations or causes.

By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and Sandwell Council reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and in its absolute discretion if Sandwell Council has reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules, acted fraudulently in any way or brings Sandwell Council into disrepute.

Sandwell Council reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.