

Fall Rose Digital Photography Contest

Winners to be awarded at Founders Day • Entries due September 25, 2026 at 11:59PM EDT

Share the roses of your season! Submit your best rose photographs digitally to be judged, with winning images printed and awarded at Founders Day. Photos from local competitions can also be entered in the national contest this fall, so take this opportunity to fine-tune your entries and put your best work forward!

Submission Categories

Enter as many categories as you like, with up to **[3]** photographs per category. Within each category, each photograph must feature a different rose variety. Photographs may be entered in only one category.

Category	What to submit
1 • One Bloom	One bloom of a modern classification (Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Floribunda, Miniature, or Miniflora) at its most beautiful stage. Varieties classified as “single” belong in the Fully-Open Bloom category. Rose variety must be named.
2 • Fully-Open Bloom	One bloom shown fully open with the stamens visible. Modern classifications and single-petaled (“single”) roses are both welcome here. Rose variety must be named.
3 • Spray / Cluster	Two or more blooms on a single stem or natural cluster. Collections are not eligible. Rose variety must be named.
4 • Old Garden & Shrub	One bloom or spray of an Old Garden Rose, Shrub, Species, Polyantha, Climber, or Rambler. Rose variety must be named.
5 • Rose Arrangement	A photograph of a rose arrangement — traditional, modern, or oriental — following the ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements. Roses need not be identified, but the arranger's name must be listed.
6 • Garden	A photo of any rose garden. Roses should dominate the frame, and some layout of the garden should be visible. Roses do not need to be identified. Public gardens must be named.
7 • Macro / Close-Up	An extreme close-up of any part of the rose or plant — petals, stamens, prickles, leaves, or dew. Color, black & white, or sepia all welcome. Rose variety must be named.
8 • Creative Interpretation	An imaginative or artistically edited interpretation of a rose. Digital effects are encouraged (black & white, texturizing, layering, blur, color shifts). Naming the rose is optional.
9 • Blooms with Critters	A rose or blooms together with a friendly creature — a bee, butterfly, pet, or other critter. Rose variety must be named.
10 • Novice	Open to entrants who have not previously won a blue ribbon at a photography contest. Any subject from Categories 1–9 may be entered here instead of the open classes.

Rules & Entry Guidelines

Eligibility. Open to all New England Rose Society members.

Entries. Enter as many categories as you like, with up to **3 photographs per category**. Within each category, each photograph must feature a different rose variety. Photographs may be entered in only one category. Previous winning photographs in the ARS National Digital Photography Contest are not eligible; other local or district placements are welcome.

File format & quality. Submit high resolution (> 1MB) JPEG files suitable for printing at 10x13 inches. Most modern phones & cameras will produce a large enough image, so be sure to submit the photo at original size.

Your own work. You must have taken every photo you enter, and all roses must be outdoor, garden-grown.

Editing. Cropping, rotation, and minor adjustments to exposure, color balance, sharpness, and other basic corrections are permitted. Artistic or creative effects are permitted only in Category 8-Creative Interpretation.

No identifying marks on the image. Do not place watermarks, signatures, logos, or date/time stamps on the photograph. Your name should appear only on the entry form and in the file name.

Deadline. All entries must be received by September 25, 2026 at 11:59pm EDT. Late entries cannot be accepted.

Disqualification. An entry may be disqualified if the rose is misnamed, required information is missing, identifying information appears on the photograph, or the roses were not grown outdoors.

How to Submit

Please visit **www.rosecontests.org** to upload your photos. No need to rename your files; they will be renamed automatically when uploaded.

Photo Use & Rights

You retain full copyright to your photographs. By entering, you confirm that you own the copyright, and you grant the New England Rose Society permission to display and/or print your photograph(s) for the contest, social media, newsletters, and related publicity, with credit to the photographer wherever possible.

Awards

Judges award first through fourth place in each category as the entries merit, and may withhold a placement if the field doesn't warrant one. First-place photographs compete for Best in Show, and winning photographs are printed and presented at Founders Day.

Scoring

Following the ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography, each entry is scored out of 100 points:

Element	Points	What it measures
Conformance	5	Follows the category's rules and required naming.
Horticultural Excellence	50	The subject's own quality, as at a live rose show.
Composition	15	Point of interest, color, balance, and framing.
Technique	15	Focus, depth of field, exposure, and lighting.
Distinction	15	The "wow" factor that sets a photo apart.
Total	100	

Thanks to our judges David Candler, Ed Cunningham & Regan Duffee. We look forward to seeing your photos!