education conservation collaboration



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Hill Country Alliance Annual Photo Contest starts May 1st!

DRIPPING SPRINGS – Love spring in the Hill Country? You're not alone. According to a <u>recent</u> <u>KXAN article</u>, Texas parks in the Hill Country region host around 650,000 visitors on average during the springtime. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife data, Garner State Park alone has welcomed more than 115,400 visitors annually each spring since 2020. Across the region, weekenders and locals alike are getting outside to appreciate the delicate wonder of our beautiful home – and the Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is hosting a Hill Country Photo Contest to celebrate!

HCA's annual <u>Hill Country region-wide photo contest</u> – running May 1-31, 2025 – is happening now. Photographers of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate to honor this springtime beauty and remind folks of the importance of protecting our home in the Hill Country. Winners will receive cash prizes, and their photos will appear in HCA's annual Texas Hill Country Calendar, which features stunning photography from each year's photo contest. Both the photo contest and the calendar aim to highlight the beauty of the region, provide an informative resource on Hill Country conservation, and inspire folks to learn more and become involved in the issues important to keeping the natural resources of this unique region intact.

The Hill Country Alliance is a regional nonprofit dedicated to ensuring current and future generations get to experience, enjoy, and benefit from the remarkable beauty of the Hill Country we know and love. Our mission is to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country. With a rapidly growing population and increasing development coming into the region, many of these special qualities are at risk of being lost forever unless we act now. Since 2007, HCA's annual contest has spotlighted the Texas Hill Country's unique region of diverse wildlife, pristine springs, sprawling landscapes, star-filled skies, multi-generational land stewards, historic towns, and hidden oases.

This year, HCA has unveiled a new and improved photo contest platform which aims to shine a spotlight on the talent behind the camera – our region's incredible photographers! Photographers can now opt-in to a public-facing Contest Directory by sharing a short bio, as well as links to their work for anyone interested in learning more. As an education focused nonprofit committed to telling the story of our region, HCA is incredibly grateful to these photographers for sharing their love for the Hill Country through the photo contest year after year, and we can't wait to see more of the faces behind the photos.

Throughout the month of May, entries can be submitted at <u>contest.hillcountryalliance.org</u>.

Photography should be original and capture the vibrant beauty of our native landscapes, wildlife, and water resources of the Texas Hill Country – from rocky creekbeds to wide-open vistas to our starry skies. Beyond wildlife and plants that call the Hill Country home, contest judges are particularly excited to see photography that captures the people and communities that make up this special part of Texas.

Whether you call the Hill Country home every day or only for a weekend getaway, we invite you to enter our photo contest and share your view of *Home in the Hill Country*.

Entering the photo contest is easy. Photos can be submitted online in just a few minutes by visiting HCA's website: <u>www.contest.hillcountryalliance.org</u>

The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. Visit us at <u>www.hillcountryalliance.org</u>.

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2024 Grand Prize winner - Sunset (Bexar County) by Jesus Corona



2025 contest promotional graphics