

“All Creatures Look to You”

Photo Contest

Sponsored by the Dordt College Environmental Studies Department

Teachers,

Interested in a fun, engaging, and worthwhile activity to challenge your gifted students without creating extra work? Looking for a way to engage that student who needs a little extra incentive to get involved in school events? Maybe an activity the whole class can participate in? Something that integrates visual arts, written communication skills, and faith? This contest might be just the ticket.

Psalm 104 paints a grand picture of the glory of the created world and God’s sustaining hand intimately at work throughout various ecosystems. The psalmist praises God for his wisdom (vs.24) and directly portrays what we would consider “natural phenomena” as the work of God. He then concludes the Psalm connecting his “meditation” on the works of the Lord as a source of his rejoicing (vs.34).

How do you see God providing for His creatures? How do you connect ecology with God’s providence? This year’s photo-contest is a challenge to capture this idea in a photo and write your own “Psalm 104” meditating on God at work in creation!

Dordt College is inviting all high school students to more deeply explore the beauty and voice of creation through their participation in a photo contest. Students will submit a photo, and an essay describing their photo, that they feel exemplifies the theme, “All Creatures Look to You”.

Digital photo submissions will be accepted online until **October 16**. Submissions will be evaluated based on the quality of the photograph and on the students’ ability to explain how the photograph illustrates the reality of “All Creatures Look to You.” By **November 3**, winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st place-\$500

2nd place-\$250

3rd Place-\$100

Guidelines and Theme

Photos may include, but are not limited to, natural landscapes and/or skylines (including the night sky), plants, wildlife, insects, etc. Students are encouraged to creatively capture anything that depicts how creation speaks in some way about the Creator. To encourage thoughtful engagement with the theme, participants are asked to provide a title for their photograph and to submit an accompanying Psalm up to 500 words in length, which elaborates on the theme “All Creatures Look to You”.

Some questions and ideas to think about to get you started, and perhaps address in the essay:

- In what ways do you see speech about the Creator in the subject you chose to photograph? What does your subject tell you about the Creator?
- How is our response to God shaped by what we see in creation? How does your subject shape how we see the relationship between God and creation? Or the relationship between God and humans?

- Dr. Wiseman notes that our exploration of creation can also reveal something about God's love. How is God's love revealed in His providence for the creation? What other attributes of God might be revealed in his relationships with His creation?

Judging

Submissions will be evaluated based on creativity, quality of the photograph, and ability to explain how the photograph illustrates the reality of "All Creatures Look to You." Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.. After the winners have been selected, cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st place-\$500

2nd place-\$250

3rd place-\$100

Submitting Your Entry

Save your essay and your picture as your first and last name (no spaces). For example, if Robert De Haan were participating he would have two files:

robertdehaan.doc (for the essay)

robertdehaan.jpg (for the photo)

Preferred file formats for essays are .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Images should be .jpg. Once you have saved the files you intend to submit, attach them to an email addressed to:

DCphotocontest@dordt.edu

Deadlines

Submission deadline is **October 16**. After October 16, you will not be able to upload your submission. Voting for people's choice award will be open shortly after the submission deadline, and winners will be selected by **November 3**.

Terms of Agreement

By submitting your photo and essay, you agree to the following:

1. to submit a signed model release for any photo that contains a human subject. This can be found at the end of this document. Attach this form along with your photo and essay.
2. that the photo is your work, to which you hold all rights, and which rights you will retain.
3. to assign Dordt College the right to use your submitted photo in electronic and print media for publication and display.

Plagiarized or edited photos will not be tolerated. Both essays and photographs will be screened for copyright infringement. Photographs may be either black and white or color, but this not a Photoshop contest. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified.

Contact info for questions

Direct any questions regarding contest rules and regulations to Jeff Ploegstra or Helen Zeutenhorst:

Dr. Jeffrey T. Ploegstra
Assistant Professor Biology
Dordt College
498 4th Ave NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
phone: (712)-722-6280
email: jeff.ploegstra@dordt.edu

Helen Zeutenhorst
Photo Contest Secretary
Dordt College
498 4th Ave NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
phone: (712)-722-6354
email: helen.zeutenhorst@dordt.edu

Suggested Resources

- Scripture verses or themes that tie in to your subject photograph.
- *Remember Creation*, Scott Hoezee (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1998)
- “In the Beginning Was Laughter”, Dylan Demarsico, The Behemoth, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/behemoth/2014/issue-5/in-beginning-was-laughter.html>
- Evangelical Environmental Network - <http://www.creationcare.org/>
- Tips for taking better photos - <http://rookiemag.com/2012/11/a-very-very-basic-guide-to-taking-a-better-photo/>

PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT FORM / RELEASE

I, (print name) _____, hereby grant permission to Dordt

College representatives, to use: photographs and/or digital images of me for use in news releases and/or educational materials. These materials might include printed or electronic publications, Web sites or other electronic communications. I further agree that my name and identity may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions shall be the property of Dordt College.

(Date)

(Signature of adult subject)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

RELEASE FOR MINOR CHILDREN (Under 18)

I, (print name) _____, parent or official guardian of (child's name) _____ hereby grant permission to Dordt College representatives, to use: photographs and/or digital images of my child for use in news releases and/or educational materials as follows: printed publications or materials, electronic publications, or Web sites. I agree that my child's name and identity: may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions and shall be the property of Dordt College.

(Date)

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)