

# IAU's Office of Astronomy for Education Astrophotography Contest - Edition 2022

## 1. General

One of the goals of the IAU's Office of Astronomy for Education is to provide educators world-wide with high quality astronomy educational resources. One of said resources is a multi-lingual astronomy glossary where each concept is illustrated with a suitable image or video. While many astronomical phenomena can be depicted with publicly available images from professional observatories, we have identified some key concepts that can be better illustrated with images taken by amateur astronomers.

To fill this gap, the OAE is launching the second edition of this astronomy contest for a number of categories listed below. Images and time-lapses videos will be evaluated by a jury of astrophotographers and astronomy educators on the basis of their visual, technical, and educational value. Winners will be awarded cash prizes, and their entries will illustrate the OAE astronomy glossary under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License ([CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)).

Details on the categories, submission, prizes and other rules of the competition are described below.

## 2. Categories

1. There are 2 categories in this contest: still images of celestial patterns and time-lapses of celestial patterns. The jury will select up to 3 winning entries in the latter category and up to 30 winners in the first category.
2. The images and videos submitted should be of patterns in the night sky that have associated cultural significance, these patterns are varied and can include asterisms, constellations, dark constellations, dark spots, bright diffuse patterns, and single stars. Please consider both the celestial patterns as the constellations [officially recognized by the IAU](#) and non-IAU-constellations. We particularly encourage you to submit

photographs from ancient and from contemporary indigenous celestial patterns, in both cases from different cultures from all over the world.

3. Below we describe the characteristics that the jury will value in each category. Given that the images and videos will be used for educational purposes to illustrate these astronomical concepts, submissions should adhere to these guidelines as closely as possible.

**Still images of celestial patterns:** The image can focus on one or more constellation(s) and other celestial pattern(s), placing them in perspective and in context against some background, and/or using e.g. a diffuse filter to highlight the brightest stars. [Still images should picture large scale celestial patterns visible by the naked eye, captured in a wide angle \(wide field\) image.](#) The goal is to show the diversity of patterns drawn in the night sky.

**Time-lapses of celestial patterns:** time lapses to show the movement of constellation(s) and other celestial pattern(s) over the course of a night. The goal is to illustrate the apparent motions of astronomical objects in the night sky. [Videos should picture large scale celestial patterns visible by the naked eye, captured in a wide angle \(wide field\) image.](#) When evaluating shortlisted entries we will request the individual frames that make up the final video.

### 3. Eligibility

1. There is no restriction on the date when the images were taken. Images taken before the competition starts will be accepted.
2. By submitting an entry, participants agree to these rules and guarantee to the OAE that:
  - a. the image/video is their own original work and was taken and processed by them
  - b. does not violate the copyright (or any other rights) of third parties
  - c. does not include defamatory or obscene content
  - d. has written consent from any person that can be identified in the image/video

- e. Group entries are allowed. In this case, each group must nominate one representative for the purpose of submission and subsequent communication. This representative must have the written consent of the other group members to submit that entry.
3. Some degree of processing and enhancing is allowed, as is common in astrophotography. But given the educational purpose of these images/videos, the jury might disqualify entries that significantly misrepresent the corresponding astronomical phenomena. In particular, the following processing techniques are not allowed:
  - a. Using different focal lengths for the foreground and background
  - b. Foreground and background imaged at different locations, or at significantly different times of the day
  - c. Cloning or painting over the image
4. Submissions with watermarks, names, copyright lines, or any text of any kind are not allowed.
5. Members of the jury, OAE staff, OAE Centers and Nodes staff and their immediate relatives cannot submit entries to this competition.
6. NAECs are eligible to submit entries to this competition. If a NAEC is also staff of one of the OAE Centers and Nodes or jury, the previous rule (number 5) prevails.

## **4. Submission**

1. Images should be submitted as JPEG files with at least 2000 pixels along their widest dimension. Videos should be submitted in MOV, MPG, MP4 or AVI formats, and should be no longer than 3 minutes.
2. Entries must be submitted by 12 June 2022 at noon CET. Late submissions will not be considered.
3. Entries must be submitted via this [form](#). If you have any problems submitting your entries please contact us at [oea@astro4edu.org](mailto:oea@astro4edu.org) and we will try to arrange an alternative delivery system. Do not send your images or videos by email; submissions by email or any means other than the form above will not be accepted unless this has been explicitly agreed upon beforehand with the OAE.
4. When submitting your entry, you are asked whether you allow us to publish your image or video under a Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license even if it

doesn't receive a prize, as long as the image or video is considered by the jury as of high education value.

5. You can submit only one entry at a time. If you wish to submit multiple entries, you have to fill out the form each time.
6. Each participant can submit up to 10 entries in total to this competition.

## **5. Prizes**

1. The jury will select up to three winning entries in the category time-lapses of celestial patterns, which will be awarded the following cash prizes:
  - a. First prize: 750 EUR
  - b. Second prize: 500 EUR
  - c. Third prize: 250 EUR

For the category still images of celestial patterns, the jury will select up to 30 winning entries, all receiving the same cash prize:

- d. 250 EUR
2. For group entries, the cash prize will be transferred to the contact person who submitted the winning entry.
3. A given participant can have multiple winning entries in the still images of celestial patterns category and only one single winning entry in the time-lapses of celestial patterns, as long as, in total, the amount of winning entries is up-to ten.

## **6. Judging**

1. The OAE has appointed an international jury of astrophotographers and astronomy educators. Entries will be evaluated based not only on their aesthetic and technical merits, but also on their usefulness as educational resources to illustrate the corresponding terms in the OAE astronomical glossary.
2. The jury reserves the right not to award some or all the prizes in any category if they deem that no entries meet these requirements.

3. The organisers might contact participants in case of doubts regarding the veracity of their entries, and might request additional material such as raw images for verification purposes.
4. The decision of the jury on the winning entries is final.

## **7. Use of images/videos**

1. All participants will retain the copyright on their entries. Winners grant the OAE the right to publish their entries under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). This license allows anyone to share and adapt the images/videos for any purpose, even commercial ones, as long as proper credit is given. This human-readable summary of the license does not substitute the actual license, which can be found [in this link](#). Please read this license carefully.
2. Non-winning entries will not be published under this CC BY 4.0 license, unless participants agree to allow OAE to use their images even if they are not one of the prize winners. We encourage participants to voluntarily release their entries under this license, [or a similar one accepted by Wikimedia Commons](#), to enrich the pool of multimedia resources available to educators.
3. To promote the OAE astronomy glossary in general and the winning entries themselves in particular, said winning entries will be published in various popular-level astronomy magazines worldwide.

## **8. Liability**

1. By entering this competition, participants guarantee that they are the sole copyright owners of their images/videos. Should the OAE receive any right infringement claims from third parties, the affected participant will be required to compensate the OAE in full for any losses.
2. The OAE reserves the right to suspend or terminate this competition, to extend the deadline, and to adjust the competition rules.
3. These rules prevail over any other contradicting information found elsewhere, unless otherwise explicitly noted.
4. Should parts of these terms and conditions be ineffective or should there be a loophole, this shall not affect the effectiveness of the remaining parts. The

invalid or missing parts shall be replaced by terms which come closest to the purpose of the contract and the statutory regulations.

5. The OAE is not liable for damages resulting from the impairment of the availability of the competition site in the event of technical disruptions and events of force majeure that cannot be influenced, or attacks by third parties against the competition site. The OAE will, however, try within the scope of its possibilities to guarantee the reliability and functionality of the competition site. However, the OAE does not guarantee that the competition site will function properly on the devices used by participants.

## **9. Applicable law**

The OAE Astrophotography Competition is an undertaking of the International Astronomical Union (98-bis Blvd Arago, F-75014, Paris, France). As such, French law applies in the event of disputes. As far as legally permissible, the place of jurisdiction is agreed to be Paris.

## **10. Data protection**

The OAE guarantees the highest possible standard of data protection within the framework of the competition and observes all relevant legal regulations. The OAE will not pass on personal data to third parties or sell address data. The OAE stores the personal data of the respective participants exclusively for the purpose of the competition. Participants hereby expressly declare their consent to the storage and use of the personal data provided for the above-mentioned purpose.