



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

2026 South Dakota Master Gardener Conference

Garden Detectives Photography and Art Contest

Eligibility

- You must be an active SDSU Extension, Master Gardener or Master Gardener Intern to enter contest.
- All entries must be a 1st time entry.
- Entrants may submit a total of 5 entries: 1 for each Photography Category & 1 for the Art Category.

How the Photography and Art Contest Works

- Drop off all entries at the conference's designated Photo/Art Check-In Area from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Friday and/or 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Saturday. (Note time correction on Saturday to be consistent with the schedule.)
- All entries must arrive properly mounted, labeled, and ready to hang for wall display.
- Entries must remain anonymous. **The Category Number, Contestant's Name, Contestant's Phone Number and Club Name** must be labeled on the back of the entry. (Note the change in order to keep the contestant's name and phone number together.)
- Entrants may submit 1 Photo Board per Photography Category. Each board must clearly display its **Category Number (1-4)** on the label on the back of the entry. Boards may consist of a single photo or a multi-photo collage. Collages may consist of 4" x 6", 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" photos, or multiple size ragged edged, overlapped photos — whatever the artist decides — displayed on a foam board OR poster board 10" x 14" or smaller.
- Entrants may submit 1 piece of Art for the **Art Category, Category Number 5**.
- A title is optional and may be displayed on the front or back of each photo-board entry.

4 Categories for Photography

1. **Natural Evidence** - Nature and Landscape
Beauty, diversity, sweeping vista's of trees, flowers, wildlife, weather, seasons, natural patterns.
2. **Usual Suspects** - People and Community
The human side of gardening — connection, care and creativity including volunteers at work.
3. **Scene Reconstruction** - The Art of Light and Water
Creativity and light, shadow, texture, abstract garden, weather perspective, reflections, angles, etc.
4. **Surveillance** - Through the Garden Gate
Beauty, productivity and spirit of plants, flowers, pollinators, blooms, garden design, before/after....

1 Category for Art

5. **Fabricated Evidence**
 - Wall art (sketches, drawings, charcoal, pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oil, etc.) must be mounted on a foam or poster board no larger than 16" x 20" for wall display.
 - All other Art mediums (2-D, 3-D, etc.) must be delivered "table-ready" for display.
 - A title is optional and may be displayed on the front or back of the art entry.
 - Write **Category Number 5, Contestant's Name, Club Name and Phone Number**, must remain anonymous and must be labeled on the back of the entry.

Judging

- Voting, by paper ballot, for all categories, will be conducted by conference attendees, on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Specific judging criteria will be available at check-in.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded in each of the categories.
- There will be a Master Gardener People's Choice Award(s) for overall vote-getters, TBD.

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Learn more at extension.sdstate.edu.

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