

# Official Rules for the 2024 Once in Japan Photo Contest

Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

## Organizer/Sponsor

The 2024 Once in Japan Photo Contest (hereinafter referred to as “the Contest”) is organized by the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco (hereinafter referred to as “the Consulate”), 275 Battery Street, Suite 2100, San Francisco, California, 94111, with support from Canon U.S.A., Inc.

## Purpose

The Contest seeks to highlight the unique charms, experiences, and connections that Japan can offer to international visitors, through their own eyes. The Contest also aims to showcase the local connections to Japan and Japanese culture within the Consulate’s [jurisdiction](#).

The Contest this year carries a theme of “**Person-to-Person Connection and Exchange with Japan**” and entries will be judged in part along their relation to this theme.

## Who May Enter

Because the purpose of the Contest is to highlight Japan through the lens of non-Japanese photographers, **the Contest is only open to individuals who do not hold Japanese passports. Japanese nationals are not eligible to apply.**

At the time of entry, entrant must reside within the Consulate’s [jurisdiction](#).

This year’s Contest will feature two categories:

- The Adult category for entrants aged 18 or over and
- The Youth category for entrants 12-17.

Entrant must be at least 12 years old on the date of entry into the Contest.

Entrants under 18 must also submit a waiver form completed by a legal guardian.

All Prize winners must be able to receive the prize in-person, at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, arriving at their own expense. The date of the award ceremony is to be determined but will most likely take place in late 2024 or early 2025.

Only one (1) entry per person.

Employees of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, employees of Canon U.S.A., Inc., and the immediate family members of such employees are not eligible to apply.

By submitting an entry, entrant agrees to the Official Rules and warrants that said entry complies with all requirements set out in these Official Rules.

## How to Enter

Each entry consists of:

1. A completed [application form](#) and
2. the [link to the Google Drive, Dropbox, or other uploader site folder](#) containing uploaded photo submissions. Photo submissions must be uploaded to a new folder in Google Drive, Dropbox, or a similar uploader site. Additionally, the folder containing entrant's photo submission **must** be shared with [japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp) at the time of submission. Other file sharing sites may be accepted, please contact [japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp) before sharing.
3. Entrants aged 12-17 must also submit a [PARENTAL CONSENT FORM](#) completed and signed by a legal guardian.
4. Photos with identifiable likenesses of individuals must be submitted with a signed [SUBJECT RELEASE FORM](#) for each individual.

\* For those individuals requiring a PARENTAL CONSENT FORM and/or SUBJECT RELEASE FORM, signed & scanned copies of the documents may be submitted via same method as photos

A maximum of three (3) photo submissions are allowed per entry, of which up to one (1) photo can be designated as a "Local" photo. Each entry must comply with the following requirements:

1. Photographs must be in digital format. Only online entries will be eligible. No physical print or film submissions will be accepted for entry into the Contest. Each digital file must be 20 megabytes or smaller, must be in JPEG or .jpg format, and must be **at least** 2,000 pixels on its shortest axis.
2. Photos may carry the designation of "Japan" or "Local". Up to three entries total may be submitted by any single applicant, of which up to 1 may be designated as a "Local" Photo
3. "Japan" photo submissions must have been taken during a trip the entrant had taken to Japan concluding no earlier than January 1, 2022, as evidenced by a Japanese immigration entry/exit stamp in entrant's passport.
4. "Local" photo submissions must have been taken within the Consulate's [jurisdiction](#) and show a strong connection to Japan or Japanese culture.
5. All Photos ("Japan" or "Local") must have been taken on or after January 1, 2022.
6. Photos may not previously have won any awards in any contest.
7. Photos may not have been submitted to previous iterations of the Contest.
8. Only moderate editing and/or color correction is acceptable.
9. Photos generated or heavily augmented using artificial intelligence or photo editing technology are not acceptable.
10. By submitting a photograph to the contest, the entrant affirms that he or she has obtained consent from all individuals whose image or likeness appears in the photograph.
11. Photographs that include sculptures, statues, paintings, and other works of art will be accepted if they do not constitute copyright infringement or fraud. When photographing the work of others, it must be as an object in its environment and not a full-frame close-up of another person's art.

12. The photograph, in its entirety, must be a single work of original material taken by the entrant. By entering the Contest, entrant represents, acknowledges, and warrants that the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by the entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the photograph.
13. The Consulate, at its discretion, may request original files and meta data to verify originality, authenticity, and validity of entries.
14. Watermarks are not acceptable. The addition of a border or frame is also not acceptable.
15. For each photo submission, please include the following on the application form:
  - a. File Name (of digital file)
  - b. Photo Title
  - c. Photo Designation ("Japan" or "Local"); only a maximum of one photo may be submitted with the "Local" designation per entrant
  - d. Photo Description (additional information about the photo that explains the context in which the photo was taken or tells the story behind the photo)
  - e. Photo Location
  - f. Photo Date
16. Incomplete or incorrect information may be cause for disqualification

### **Confirmation of Submission**

Entrants should receive confirmation of submission from the Consulate via e-mail within 4 business days of submission. If confirmation is not received after this timeframe, please contact the Consulate by telephone at (415) 780-6085 during [normal business hours](#).

### **Application Deadline**

**All application forms and files must be sent by: 11:59 PM PST, Sunday, December 1, 2024**

Please direct any inquiries to: [japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp)

### **Required Documents**

- [Application Form](#)
- Online Document Share Service **Link with photo submissions** (granting view/download privileges to [japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japaninfo@sr.mofa.go.jp))
- FOR ENTRANTS AGED 12-17: [PARENTAL CONSENT FORM](#), completed and signed by a legal guardian, submitted with photos
- FOR Photos with identifiable likenesses of individuals must be submitted with a signed [SUBJECT RELEASE FORM](#) for each individual.

\* For those individuals requiring a PARENTAL CONSENT FORM and/or SUBJECT RELEASE FORM, signed & scanned copies of the documents may be submitted via same method as photos

## **Judging**

Each individual submission (photo) will be judged independently of others within a given entry. Entries will be judged along their relation to this year's theme of people-to-people connection with Japan, subject, composition, use of color, the overall story told by the entry, and how well it conveys it.

One photo each for the Adult Category First Prize, Adult Category Second Prize, and Youth Category First Prize-winning photos, and additional Honorable Mentions will be selected from amongst qualified submissions by representatives from the Consulate and select members of local organizations with Japan-U.S. connections. Winners will be notified by e-mail. The decision of the Judges is final and binding.

## **Contest Prizes**

**Judges will select three winning photos. Winners will each receive the following:**

1. A Certificate of Award
2. A Canon product:
  - Adult Category First Prize: EOS R8 RF24-50mm F4.5-6.3 IS STM Lens Kit
  - Adult Category Second Prize: PIXMA PRO-200 Professional Inkjet Photo Printer
  - Youth Category First Prize: EOS R100 RF-S18-45mm F4.5-6.3 IS STM Lens Kit
3. Selected Submission displayed and featured in the Consulate's gallery, website, and social media

If a prize or any portion thereof is unavailable, the contest sponsor, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to substitute the prize with another prize.

## **Exhibition**

The three Prize-winning photos and Honorable Mentions, including entrants' names and photo titles, dates, locations, and descriptions, will be printed and displayed to the public in the Consulate's "Once in Japan" exhibition. Prize-winning and Honorable Mention photo titles, dates, locations, and descriptions, and photographers' names will also be published on the Consulate's social media pages, including but not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and the Consulate's official website in an announcement post.

## **License**

By entering the Contest, all entrants grant an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license to the Consulate, to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of the entries for non-commercial purposes along with name credit when it is appropriate, in any media now or hereafter known, for no additional compensation, including, but not limited to: the Consulate exhibit and gallery display; publication in Consulate brochures, pamphlets, flyers, and web-based media (such as Consulate Website and Social Media platforms). This includes entrants' names, and description of entries. The Consulate reserves the right to edit descriptions for grammatical and spelling purposes, and for brevity in the case of length limitations.

## **Disclaimer**

The Contest is in no way sponsored, endorsed, administered by, or associated with Alphabet, Google, Meta, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter/X.

### **Data privacy**

Entrants, and their guardians for entrants under 18, agree that personal data, especially name and address, may be processed, shared, and otherwise used for the purposes and within the context of the Contest and any other purposes outlined in these Official Rules. The data may also be used by the Consulate in order to verify the entrant's identity, postal address, and telephone number or to otherwise verify the entrant's eligibility to participate in the Contest. Entrants have the right to access, review, rectify, or cancel any personal data held by the Consulate by writing to the Consulate. Personal data will be used by the Consulate and its affiliates exclusively for the purposes stated herein.