

National Park Foundation - Olympus news release

Wanted: Avid Photographers and Nature lovers
The Annual 2008 Share the Experience Photo Contest Challenges
Photo Enthusiasts to Explore, Experience and Capture America's Federal
Lands

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 18, 2008...The National Park Foundation and Olympus Imaging America Inc. challenge everyone who can point and click to grab their camera, head to a federal land, and enter the 2008 Share the Experience Photo Contest. This year's official contest is sponsored by the National Park Foundation and Olympus in partnership with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

The 2008 Share the Experience Photo Contest will run from August 18, 2008 through December 31, 2008 and showcases the more than 500 million acres of Federal Lands, drawing entries from all across the United States.

All 2008 entrants will have the opportunity to win one of five exciting prize packages with a total of 14 winners. The Grand Prize winner will earn the international honor of having the winning image grace all the 2010 "Federal Recreation Lands Pass," an annual admission that provides access to all participating Federal Land Management Agency sites where an entrance fee is charged. Additionally, the grand prize winner will receive an Olympus E-3 DSLR digital camera kit and a five-day, four-night trip to a Federal Recreation Land of his/her choice.

"The National Park Foundation is grateful to Olympus for supporting the 8th annual federal lands photo contest, providing park goers with the opportunity to discover the beauty and diversity of our nation's protected lands and share that experience with all of America," said Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "By entering in the 2008 Share the Experience Photo Contest, individuals can take part in a truly American pastime: helping others see the beauty and value of our national parks. The National Park Foundation is delighted to sponsor this year's contest with Olympus to get people out to the parks to capture great photo memories."

"Olympus is proud to be the official sponsor of the National Parks photo contest," said F. Mark Gumz, President, Olympus Imaging America Inc. "We offer shockproof, waterproof, freezeproof and highly portable cameras, which are perfect for capturing the parks' elements in any season. We are committed to respecting nature and promoting healthy, active lifestyles. We encourage everyone to capture our nation's parks through photography while leaving these majestic lands untouched for future generations to appreciate."

Citizens and legal residents of the United States who are at least 18 years of age can enter by submitting up to three photo entries online at www.sharetheexperience.org; or via mail in a hand-written, stamped envelope to:

Share the Experience Official Federal Recreation Lands Photo Contest
c/o ePrize, LLC
PO Box 8070
Royal Oak, MI 48068

All photographs entered must be taken in one of the Federal Recreation Agency Lands between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, must be original creations, and must be submitted by the original photographer. PLEASE SEE OFFICIAL RULES AT www.sharetheexperience.org.