

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2019

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Midpen announces annual photo contest

Los Altos, CA— The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's tenth-annual digital photo contest begins today. Photographers of all abilities are encouraged to submit images taken in publicly accessible areas of Midpen's preserves throughout the South Bay, Peninsula and San Mateo County coast. An aspiring photographers category was added last year to invite middle and high school students to participate.

"The contest is a fun way for people to use everyday technology to connect with nature close to home," Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said. "We hope people will feel inspired to explore their public open spaces, perhaps for the first time, and capture those moments of awe and wonder in nature."

Participants can submit up to three images in the following categories: Wildlife, plant life, landscapes, people in nature, and aspiring photographers. The contest concludes on May 31, 2019. There is no fee to participate and winners are chosen by a public vote on Midpen's Facebook page.

The winner in each category receives a \$100 REI gift card and will have their image featured in Midpen's fall newsletter.

For more information visit www.openspace.org/Contest



2018 winning entries, clockwise from top left:

Landscape, Silky Sunrise by Jack Lucas, Windy Hill Open Space Preserve; People in nature, Because In The End, You Won't Remember The Time You Spent Working In An Office Or Mowing The Lawn – Jack Kerouac by Vedya Konda, Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve; Plant life, Thistle Firework by Stephanie Richardson, Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve; Aspiring photographer, Perched Woodpecker by Sohum Phadke, Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

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