

**United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**November 19, 2007**

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### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Youth Photo Contest**

In Celebration of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in January 2008, a Youth Photo Contest will be held by the Blackwater NWR and the Friends of Blackwater. To initiate this contest, photographer Richard Dorbin will hold a youth photo class on December 1, at Blackwater NWR Visitor Center during the Friends of Blackwater 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Open House for youths 16 and under! This is your child's chance to learn from an extremely talented photographer how to take photos. Each participant will receive a free disposable camera to work with in the class. Space in the class is limited; so please stop by the Refuge or call to sign up in advance for the photo class at the Friends of Blackwater's Eagle Nest Bookstore and Gift shop. The deadline for registering for the photo class is November 30, 2007.

Photos entered in the contest must be taken by the youths in two age groups: Fox – 12-16 and cubs 11 and under. There will be prizes for each age group in three categories: landscape, wildlife, and birds. Entries must be received by the refuge no later than January 31, 2008. The winning photographs will be displayed at Blackwater's 8<sup>th</sup> Eagle Festival on March 15, 2008.

A panel consisting of Blackwater NWR staff and members of the Friends of Blackwater will judge the contest entries. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is "to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." The judges will be looking for clear, steady photos that best convey the essence of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. So give us your best shot!!!

More information on this contest can be obtained by attending the Friends of Blackwater Christmas Open House, by calling 410-228-2677, or viewing the Friends of Blackwater web site: [www.friendsofblackwater.com](http://www.friendsofblackwater.com).