



Verbond van Vlaamse Speleologen - VZW
Mechelsesteenweg 586 C10, 1800 Vilvoorde
Ondernemingsnr.: BE 0431.031.871 - RPR: Brussel
<https://www.speleovvs.be> – info@speleovvs.be

VVS COMPETITION FOR UNDERGROUND PHOTOGRAPHY

This international competition is organized every two years by the Working Group on Underground Photography and Videography (WOFV) of the Flemish Caving Association (VVS) in the year that the Caving Days are also organized.

The aim of the competition is to promote the underground world through photography.

1. Participation:

The competition is open to all speleologists of every nationality. The only official language of the competition is Dutch. The rules will be drawn up in Dutch and translated into French and English. The Dutch-language rules are the official rules. Communication with non-Dutch speaking participants is done in English.

2. Registration:

The entries are done digitally and at the latest 2 months before the announcement of the winners on the Caving Days. So before July 20, 2024 (The Caving Days 2024 take place from September 20 to 22).

The registration is done digitally at the following e-mail address: wofv.competition@speleovvs.be

The e-mail message also contains a digital photo of the participant, as well as the following data:

Name, first name, caving club (if applicable), nationality, e-mail address, and level (master / youth) in which one wants to participate.

Registration is free.

3. Categories: Master / Youth

Youth: photographer under the age of 21, focused on young people who do not have the means to purchase expensive material and do not have the connections to access closed or special caves but still make the effort to take photos.

Masters: advanced photographer.

The winner in the Master competition will be asked to be member of the jury at the next competition.

4. Series

There are 5 series. A Youth participant may choose one series and send one photo. A Master may participate in one, some or all series. The participant may send his photo(s) via WeTransfer or another medium to send large digital files to wofv.competition@speleovvs.be. The name of the photographer, the level and the series must be stated in the file name of the photo. For example "John Smith - Youth - Macro". The highest rated photo within each category -but regardless of the series- wins. In other words, there is one prize to be won in each category (Youth and Master). There is also a prize for the best (portrait orientation) cover photo for the Spelerpes (magazine of the Flemish Caving Association). The photos must be recent (max. 2 years old) and original (in other words, not previously sent to the VVS for a photo competition). All photos must be taken completely underground.

1) MACRO:

In this series, images are expected of subjects that are displayed larger than they actually are, to close-up shots of subjects (or parts thereof) of approximately 10 cm in size that are displayed in a full screen.

2) SPELEO PORTRAIT:

This in the broadest sense of the word. In other words a close-up of the head with possibly a part of the upper body.

3) THEME:

In this series, images are expected of an imposed theme, recorded with any lens (macro / close-up, wide angle, ...) For the 2022 competition, the theme is 'technique'.

4) WIDE ANGLE* WITHOUT MODEL:

A wide-angle photo without covers in the picture, and which reflects the underground world in all its beauty.

5) WIDE ANGLE* WITH MODEL:

Wide-angle photo with person / speleologist / cave diver, who may be an assistant, buddy or accidentally present.

(*) - Wide angle means for a full-frame camera a focal length of less than 50 mm. For a camera with a smaller sensor that becomes: $(50\text{mm} \div \text{crop factor of the camera})$. Example: Nikon D300s with a crop factor of 1.5: $(50 \text{ mm} \div 1.5) = 33.33 \text{ mm}$. So: focal length smaller than 33.33 mm.

ADDITIONAL: BEST COVER PHOTO SPELERPES:

This series is assessed separately by the editors of the Spelerpes.

Before judging, the person responsible for the competition checks whether all submitted images comply with the description of the series for which they were submitted. Images that, according to him (or her), do not or possibly do not comply with that description will be submitted to the WOFV, to the exclusion of those who participate in the competition themselves. The WOFV decides definitively whether or not to exclude certain images by a simple majority of votes. In case of equality of vote, the image is accepted. If the photographer of an excluded image is a youth participant, the participant will be contacted by the person responsible for the competition so that the participant can change his entry.

5. Format

The submitted photos must comply with the following technical specifications: .jpg format, minimum size of the shortest side 2384 pixels.

6. Deontology

Offensive photos are not allowed. Participants who clearly damage the environment are automatically disqualified.

7. Copyright

All delivered photos remain the property of the participant. By registering for this competition, the participant declares that the Flemish Caving Association (VVS) can use all these photos and films freely and without payment for promotion of the VVS, for publication in the Spelerpes, its website or social media, on the YouTube channel of the VVS and for courses. The name of the author will always be mentioned.

8. Judging

The WOFV appoints an odd number of jury members. There is no chairman of the jury since all jury members give their assessment independently of each other.

Each jury member makes a motivated report for the various entries (based on a specially developed form where the name of the participants is not disclosed to the jury members) and sends it to the person in charge of the competition who will draw a result from it.

The jury's decisions are final and indisputable and no correspondence will be entered into.

9. Proclamation

The winners will be announced during the Caving Days where they can also receive their prizes. Those who cannot attend the Caving Days can collect their prize after making an appointment at the VVS federation address. The winning photos will appear in the December edition of the Spelerpes which will also show the best cover photo.

FINAL CONSIDERATION

The only valid version of the rules of the VVS CONTEST FOR UNDERGROUND PHOTOGRAPHY is the one that can be found on www.speleovvs.be . Small adjustments to the rules can be made until June 15 of the year of the competition if this is necessary for the smooth running of the competition. From that date, the regulations will be final.