

Muncie Public Library Big Read Photo Contest

2025–2026

Muncie Public Library invites community members of all ages to participate in the **2025–26 Big Read Photo Contest!** The MPL Big Read is supported in part by a grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts** and brings the Muncie community together for a shared reading experience centered on food, family, and tradition.

This year's featured books are:

- **Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees** by Aimee Nezhukumatathil (Adults)
- **Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story** by Kevin Noble Maillard (Children)

Free copies of each book are available at all MPL branches and partner organizations: Ross Community Center • MadJax • Minnetrista Museum & Gardens • Muncie Children's Museum

We invite you to explore the theme **Food & Family, Meals & Memories** through photography. Show us what food, tradition, and togetherness look like through your lens —whether it's a birthday party, holiday celebration, time in the kitchen, or moments in the garden.

CONTEST THEME

Food & Family, Meals & Memories

Submission Dates:
January 15 – March 15, 2026

INFORMATION

Age Groups/categories

- Youth: 12 & under
- Youth: 13–17
- Adults: 18 & up
- Professional (someone who derives income from their photography)

Additional Information

- **No entry fee.**
 - **Contest open to Muncie and Delaware County residents.**
 - Photography resources available (link or handout can be added).
 - Youth entries require **parental approval** in the submission email.
-

HOW TO ENTER

Submission Process

Submit entries **online only** to: **mplbigread@gmail.com**

In the **email subject line**, include:

Submission – Big Read Photo Contest

Attach your photo file(s), and in the **email message** include:

- Full name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Age group
- Photo title
- A brief 2–3 sentence description

Entry Limit

Each photographer may submit **up to two (2) entries**. Please submit a separate entry for each photo.

PHOTO SPECIFICATIONS

To ensure your submission meets contest requirements, please follow these guidelines:

- **Image Quality:** At least **300 dpi** and suitable for printing up to **11" x 14" (3300 x 4200 pixels** or larger).
- **Format:** All photography styles welcome—black & white, color, digitally enhanced.

- **No AI-generated photos** may be submitted.
 - **Appropriateness:** Images must be suitable for public and community display.
 - **Originality:** Photos must be the entrant's own work.
-

RIGHTS & USE

- You retain **all rights** to your image.
 - By submitting, you grant MPL permission to:
 - Reproduce copies for judging and exhibition
 - Display your image at MPL branches and partner organizations
 - Share your photo on MPL social media **with proper credit** for contest promotion (including full name, photo title and age group)
-

JUDGING & COMMUNITY VOTING

After the submission period closes:

1. A panel of **professional photographers** and **library staff** will review all eligible entries.
 2. Finalists will be posted online for **community voting** to determine the **Community Top 3 Awards**.
 3. Winners in each category will be notified by **April 15, 2026**.
-

EXHIBITION & AWARD CEREMONY

Celebrate the creativity of our community!

- **May 2026:** Winner showcases at each Muncie Public Library branch
- **June 2026:** Award ceremony & reception at **MadJax**
- A display of finalist photos and a digital presentation featuring **all submissions** (including full name, photo title and age group)
- Winners receive a printed photo of their submission and other prizes TBA