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**Stunning Shots of Chimney Rock**

**Park Announces Summer Photo Contest Winners**

Entries in Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park’s Summer Photo Contest prove that there’s no end to nature’s beauty.

Around 20 visitors submitted their snapshots in the contest. Entries were judged by a panel of photography enthusiasts and fans of the Park’s Facebook page.

In September, the Park’s Facebook followers liked and shared the Photo Contest images that they thought were the best. Cynthia Vega, from Immokalee, Florida, received the Contest’s People Choice Award because her photo of three excited children on top of the Chimney received the most likes and shares.

Vega’s photo will be featured as the Park’s Facebook and Pinterest Board Cover for two weeks. She’ll also receive two Park admission tickets, lunch for two at Old Rock Café and a $20 gift certificate from Old Time Photo in Chimney Rock Village.

Coming in second place was Melissa Taylor’s stunning photo of Hickory Nut Falls. The vertical image by the Toronto, Ohio, resident captures the sheer magnitude of the Park’s 404-foot waterfall Taylor will receive two Park admission tickets, lunch for two at Old Rock Café and two tickets to Lake Lure Boat Tours for her win.

Winning first place was John Haldane, from Asheville, NC. Haldane’s photo “A Tree Grows in Chimney Rock” showcases a vivid, green tree growing on the rock surface near the Chimney, an unusual but beautiful sight.

He will receive an overnight getaway in Hickory Nut Gorge at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa, two admission tickets to the Park, brunch for two at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa and two tickets to Lake Lure Boat Tours.

The Park’s Fall Photo Contest is currently underway. Shutterbugs can learn more about entering their images of Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park by visiting chimneyrockpark.com or Facebook.com/chimneyrockparknc.

**About Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park**

[Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park](http://chimneyrockpark.com/index.php) is a still-developing international outdoor destination located 25 miles southeast of Asheville on Highway 64/74A in Chimney Rock, N.C. It is recognized as one of the Southeast’s most iconic sites and popular travel destinations. The Park’s 535-million-year-old monolith called Chimney Rock can be accessed via the 500-step Outcroppings Trail and offers guests 75-mile panoramic views of Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure. The Park features one of the highest waterfalls of its kind east of the Mississippi River, Hickory Nut Falls, at 404 feet. Hickory Nut Gorge, one of the state’s most significant centers of biodiversity, is home to 36 rare plant species and 14 rare animal species. The Rumbling Bald section of the greater State Park off of Boys Camp Road in Chimney Rock is the only other area of the Park that is currently open to the public. A destination for travel groups, weddings and special events, the Chimney Rock section of the Park also hosts innovative educational programs for schools, homeschoolers, scouts and summer camps. Visit Chimney Rock’s website at [chimneyrockpark.com](http://www.chimneyrockpark.com).

Cutlines

#1 (COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

John Haldane captured Chimney Rock’s unique beauty in his photo “A Tree Grows in Chimney Rock”. The photo was the first-prize winner of the Park’s Summer photo contest.

#2(COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

Melissa Taylor’s snapshot of Hickory Nut Falls placed second in the contest.

#3(COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

Chimney Rock’s Facebook followers chose Cynthia Vega’s photo of three excited children on top of the Chimney to win the People’s Choice Award.