

Photography 101

Helpful Photo Tips

1 Select your Subject

Photograph a subject from different levels. For instance, if you are taking a picture of a puppy, try getting on the floor and taking the photo with the camera level to the puppy. Then try taking a photo from a standing position while the puppy is looking up.

2 Heed the Background

Make sure the background is not too distracting. An example of that would be you are taking a picture of a person outside with trees in the background. If you are not careful, it will look like the tree branches are coming out of the person's head. Try moving the camera or moving the person to avoid this.

3 Use a Flash

Try using a flash outside if your camera will allow it. Often the sun will create harsh shadows especially if you are photographing people. A flash will fill in those shadows.

4 Get up Close

Don't be afraid to get close to the subject. "Fill the frame" is an expression that means to fill the viewfinder with the subject...just so long as it isn't an alligator or something like



that! But don't get so close that you cut off part of a subject that you didn't mean to.

5 Landscape vs. Portrait

Take both horizontal...often called landscape mode, and vertical...often call portrait mode, photos. Check both ways to make sure which works best for your subject.

6 Rule of Thirds

Use the rule of thirds. What that means is to try not to always place your subject in the middle of the frame. Imagine your camera viewfinder is divided into a grid of thirds both ways. Make sure your subject is placed where those imaginary lines intersect.

7 Sun over your Shoulder

Take a photo with the sun shining over your shoulder and toward your subject. This works best for subjects, but not people, who will squint their eyes at the sun.

8 See each Person's Face

When taking photos of groups, make sure you can see everyone's face. Either move the camera to a higher angle or make sure your subjects are standing in such a way that you can see each face.

9 Try Something Different

For instance, if you are taking a photo of a group of people, have them look at you and smile, then do a fun photo where they are all making faces. Also, take candid photos, don't pose all of them. Capture a moment as it happens; as if you are not there.

10 Focus your Camera

Make sure your camera is in focus. Just because it is an auto-focus camera doesn't mean you can't take blurry photos. Many cameras make a beeping noise or show a solid green light when the focus is "locked."