

# THE COMPLETE VOLUNTEER'S GUIDE TO PHOTOGRAPHY

When you show someone a photograph, you're giving them information, and telling a story, so why not tell a beautiful story? Anyone can easily take a photo to convey infor-

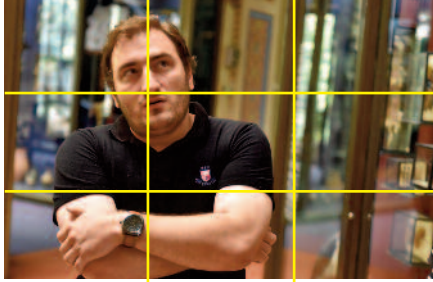
mation, but with a few of these helpful tips, and a little effort, you can make beautiful photographs that tell beautiful stories for people to enjoy for decades to come!

*Hey, let's have some fun with this!*

Mark Gilchrist, 2015

## Composition

**Rarely center your subject**, (your main element). Also, make it stronger with "negative space." When you balance your subject against empty, out-of-focus or insignificant content, your viewer will think, "wow, that's important!"



The subject here is on an edge of the "Rule of Thirds" square, with the strong element (his face) in a corner. Although looking up, he is looking toward the image center.

Similarly, on this page, he is looking to the center, (okay, up) as are most subjects in all images. Nice, subtle, trick for photos, pages, websites and videos.

## Right Place, Right Time

- **Being in the Right Place** doesn't mean just showing up. Shoot from many different camera angles, from down low to up high. Try to give a perspective different than what people usually see. Get some dirt on your pants. Find a ladder...
- **Shooting at the Right Time** doesn't mean just showing up early. Timing is critical to capture expressions and motion, both of which evoke emotion.

## Video

**Many things are similar** to photography when shooting video, with composition, lighting and color. But keep it short. Take 5-10-second clips and piece them together in iMovie.

## Lighting

Your greatest challenge? *Differences in light.* Beware of harsh shadows from hats, trees and other things shading eyes.



Remember the Golden Hours, right before sunset (shown), and right after sunrise.

## Shot List

- Overall (scene-setter)
- Signature Image
- Interaction
- Portraits
- Details
- Action

## 5 ways to thinner thighs and better photographs

1. Believe that you can take a good photograph. Confidence improves your mood and raises your expectations. Build confidence by learning skills.
2. Abandon your shyness; Get up close to your subjects and fill the frame – with faces, when possible – for greater impact.
3. Decide whether you want a good photograph; Not everything needs great coverage, so save your "photo-mojo" for when you need it!
4. Take your time; Artists can spend months on a painting. Your photo may be enjoyed for decades by hundreds of people, so work to get it right!
5. Relax and enjoy yourself; When you're relaxed, your subject will relax and you will be more comfortable getting closer (see #2).

## To GET the Action...



## GET IN THE ACTION!

## 5 Steps to Wealth, Health, and a Great Photograph

1. Think about what you are trying to say, and photograph that.
2. Take several photos from different angles, with different backgrounds, lighting etc.
3. Select one of those photographs for each little story within your big story.
4. Crop and adjust if needed (usually needed)
5. *Show only your best photos!*

## It is what it isn't

**Photography is a lot like sculpture...**

1. Decide what to photograph, and remove from your frame everything else in the world.
2. Look at your shots and reduce them to one.
3. Crop that image to create the photograph that elegantly and eloquently tells your story.

## More!

**Once you are bored** with what is on this page, consider; diagonal lines, curves, negative space, balance and background; just a few of the many composition concepts that can help make photography a lifetime passion!

## What are you saying?

**Let me tell you a story...:**

- We had an event
- These people came
- We ate food
- People spoke to the group
- People did something interesting

So, there you have at least five little stories to tell for your big story. Take plenty of photos, but use only one (or two...) for each little story.

Even if you won't use captions, think of one for every photo you use. Are the captions different? If not, do you really need those photos?



**4-ground** Put your story up front. Have your subject hold, or stand behind, something that tells your story.

## Background Check

Mostly, just make sure that what is in the background doesn't clash with your story and is not too busy.

**BONUS!** Bring your background out of focus, if you can, with a large aperture (small f-stop number.) Set your Mode Dial to A (Av on Canon) for better control of your aperture.



## Smile, darn it!

**Expressions are key.** Look at any photograph that you really like of a person, and that expression (not always a smile) will be significant. How do you do this? Take many photos for a better chance to have that one, better photograph.

## Loot Stuff

**Here is some pretty good, pretty cheap (free) stuff to help you tell your stories.**

- **PhotoScape:** Do basic and fun things with photos. Easy to learn. PC or Mac
- **Weebly:** One of the oldest website builders, and still the best (easiest-to-learn, Drag'n Drop, many features). Great blog. Free or paid plans.