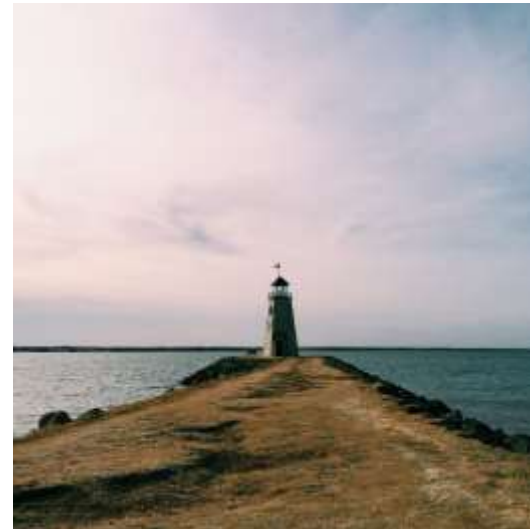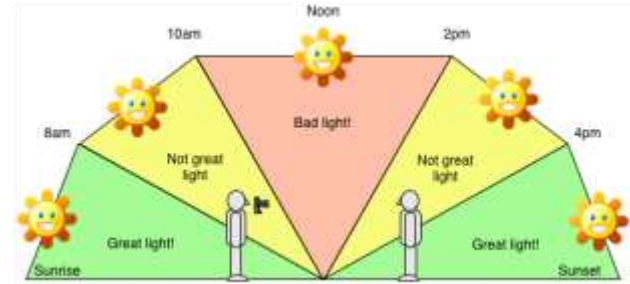# Photography | Tips & Tricks

# Indoor

A common problem when shooting indoors is the lighting.

- Place the subject near a window for natural light.

- Turn on the flash. The flash can help by getting sharp images indoors.

# Outdoor

Sunrise and sunset
are the perfect times
to shoot outdoors!



- Sunrise gives you the nice soft
  feel to your subject and is not too harsh.

- Sunset is the "Golden Hour" for lighting.
  If you're taking portraits, shoot into the sun
  and use a flash or a reflector.



- Cloudy days create even lighting over everything
  because clouds are considered a giant diffuser.

# Night Time Photos

## Night time photos can be tricky at first. The key is to have a tripod!

- Use a tripod to prevent motion blur in the photo.

- Crank your shutter speed down (1/30 or lower) and your ISO up (800 or higher) to capture the limited light.

- Use the timer mode or a remote to take the shot without moving the camera.

- If it is people your wanting to take photos of, use a flash. Then you won't need go through the points mentioned above to get a decent shot.

# Posing Groups

- When photographing large groups of people your primary goal is to get everyone in the group clearly visible. Start with getting head to toe shots then you can zoom in.

- Realize you will not be able to control each persons pose. Imagine the whole group as a single object, make sure everyone is visible.

- There are friendly ways to pose in a casual manner. Mix arm placement around shoulders or waist.

***A great group shot option is to shoot from an elevated angle.
Use a balcony or climb a ladder to gain height and an interesting angle.

# Head Shots



The most important thing is making sure the eyes are in focus and are exposed correctly.

Frame someone where their shoulders 'touch' either side of the frame.

Either shoot straight at your subject or shoot slightly down.

Make sure your lighting is even, and avoid use of a distracting background. Blurred or solid backgrounds work the best.
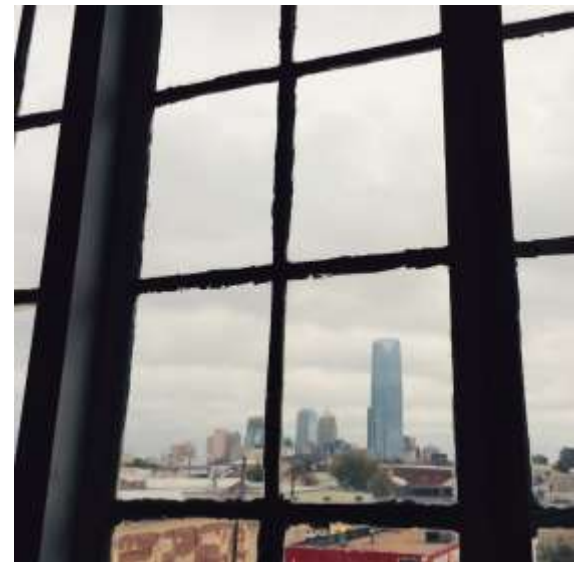
# Framing Your Shot

Think of framing your shot in a unique way.
Use people, branches, windows, arches, doorways for visual interest.

**<u>Framing Your Shot:</u>**
1. Gives the photo context
2. Gives images a sense of depth and layers
3. Leads the eye towards your main focal point
4. Intrigues your viewer

# Taking Event Photos

Whether it is a gathering, activity, convention, etc. they all should have the documentary style of shots. Basically you want CANDID photos with a couple posing shots every now and then.

- Try to be discrete and not be in the way but at the same time be there to get every moment.
- Try not to use flash photography. It can be very distracting.
- Get up close but once again stay out of the way.
- Take pictures through the whole event so nothing is missed.
- Change the perspective, show emotion and expression.
- Use what is around you to get a good shot. Shoot from the balcony, get down on one knee, etc…

# Mission Trips

## Take **<u>A LOT</u>** of photos!

- Shoot around 300 photos a day.

- Take photos of the landscape and architecture around you.

- Be creative if you aren't allowed to show faces in photos. Whether it's the back of heads, hands, silhouettes, creative angles, etc. Think of ways to not include the face.

***When taking camera equipment, bring a backpack style camera bag to discourage stealing.***

# Smartphone Photos

Smartphones have become such an improvement, and even doing better than most point and shoot cameras. It just depends on how you do it.

- You want to use the smartphone like any other camera, hold it steady!
- Don't use the flash as much as possible.
- Change your position if shadows/highlights are overpowering the photo.
- Get a free editing app to enhance the photo. A little enhancement can change the mood of the photo or just make it plain cool.

# Sports Photography

Taking photos at sports events or
 fast action events can be tricky.

- A longer telephoto lens; 85mm or larger, is recommended. This helps you stay out of the way and still get those up close shots.

- Lighting will be tricky.  Have good light or else it will be very challenging to get non blurry shots.

- Set your shutter speed to 1/200 or higher to capture that crisp shot with no motion blur or set your camera mode to sports.

- Set your camera settings to continuous mode. This setting will allow you to take several photos at a time to get that perfect shot.

# Camera Recommendations

### $150
Nikon CoolPix S6500  / $169.95
Canon PowerShot ELPH 530 HS  / $138.00
Sony Cyber-Shot DSC-WX80  / $138.00
Panasonic Lumix DMC-SZ3  / $121.00

### $300
Nikon CoolPix P520  / $376.95
Canon PowerShot SX40 HS  / $314.00
FujiFilm FinePix HS35EXR  / $309.00
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ70  / $277.00

### $500
Canon EOS Rebel T3i DSLR with EF-S 18-55mm IS II Lens  / $569.00
Canon Power Shot G16 Point-and-Shoot   / $549.00
Sony Alpha SLT-A58 DSLR with DT 18-55mm SAM II Lens  / $498.00
Nikon D3200 DSLR with AF-S DX Nikkor 18-55mm VR Lens  / $496.95

### $750
Canon EOS Rebel T5i DSLR with EF-S 18-55mm IS STM Lens  / $799.00
Nikon D5200 DSLR with 18-55mm Lens  / $796.95

### $1000+
Nikon D7100 DSLR with 18-140mm VR DX Lens  / $1,446.95
Nikon D5300 DSLR with 18-140mm VR DX Lens  / $1,396.95
Canon EOS 70D DSLR with 18-55mm STM Lens  / $1,249.00
Canon EOS 60D DSLR with EF-S 18-200mm IS Lens  / $1,099.00

# Equipment Recommendations

Here are examples of great external flashes.

- Canon 430EX II Speedlight TTL Flash
  *$300*

- Nikon SB-700 Speedlight Flash
  *$325*

- Any tripod that is sturdy and not cheap.

- Extra batteries and memory cards are a must.

- Camera bag, whether a side bag or backpack style.