



Tips For Taking Great Photographs

by The Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society, Lawton, OK
(a member group of Lawton Arts for All)



1. Get down on the subject's level. Don't shoot down on animals and people.
2. Try shooting from low angles to get some interesting perspectives most people never see.
3. Use "Thirds" to position the subject for a more aesthetically pleasing layout.
4. In the image, leave room in front of objects that normally move or are meant to move.
5. Watch for distractions in the background. Take time to examine the scene in your camera's viewfinder for things you don't want. Don't press the shutter until you are sure it's right.
6. Beware of bright objects that draw attention away from the subject. Remember, the brightest object in the image tends to become the subject.
7. Try vertical and horizontal orientation. Chose the one that looks best. It may depend on the subject.
8. Compose with objects in the foreground to give a sense of scale, to frame the image, to add interest, and to show depth.
9. Don't put the horizon in the center of the image. Put it in the lower or upper third.
10. Zoom in or get closer to eliminate distractions, and to emphasize the subject.
11. Watch for shadows that are interesting, artistic, or fun. Often the shadow is the best subject.
12. Try some unusual angles for added interest. Tilt the camera for variety. It doesn't have to be just vertical or horizontal.
13. Avoid clutter that detracts from the subject. Recompose if needed. The best images are simple.
14. Use early and late sun for warm color tones. The first and last two hours of the day are best.
15. Don't forget small things as subjects. Some small things are great subjects. Some of the best landscapes are little ones-- flowers, rocks, interesting dirt formations, running water, creeks.
16. Watch for parts of things that are interesting. You often don't need the whole thing in the photo.
17. Look for beauty in the simple things- a leaf, a pattern, a piece of wood, part of a person.
18. Try shooting close-ups of unusual things or try unusual close-ups. Experiment!
19. Watch for unusual things to photograph. Try unusual views, angles, and backgrounds for interest. Images with contradictory parts or meanings are interesting and fun.

20. Put a subject in your landscapes. The landscapes will be more interesting. Even a photo of the Grand Canyon is more interesting with something in the foreground
21. Use natural and window light for soft gentle lighting. Light from a north-facing window is best because it's very diffused.
22. Try turning off the flash when shooting indoors for beautiful ambient lighting without glare.
23. Shoot some images in black and white. It has timeless beauty. It can often turn “ordinary” into art! Even a mud puddle can be beautiful in B&W.
24. Be patient and take plenty of time to get the best shots. Plan carefully. Remember that with wildlife, you are on their schedule, not yours.
25. Great photos always have a “story” to tell. Look for images with something to say. They are always better.
26. Remember, photographers are the great storytellers of the world. You help preserve history and heritage for future generations. Without photos, they won't know who we were.

Now, go take some photos—lots of them!

Want to learn more?

The Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society (Lawton's photo club) teaches a FREE photography class each month. No cost or obligation.

Web: WichitaWildlight.org

Email: WichitaWildlight@gmail.com

FB: Facebook.com/WWPS.org

FAQ: http://wichitawildlight.org/?page_id=156 (paste this URL in your browser, or visit the website)