

Top 12 Photography TIPS!

1. **Get in close.** Zoom decreases your photo quality, but your feet don't. As long as it's safe, physically move closer to your subject for a better photo.
2. **Practice every day.** Practice makes perfect and photography is no exception. Get out there and start taking photos.
3. **Check for even lighting.** Harsh shadows or lack of light will severely impact the look of your photo. Get an external light source if necessary.
4. **Keep an eye out for composition.** Photo composition, or the arrangement of visual elements, is key to telling your whole story.
5. **Keep your batteries charged.** Nothing puts a stop to a taking photos at an event faster than dead batteries. If using regular batteries, keep some extra on-hand. If using a cell phone, invest in a portable charger.
6. **Plan out your depth of field.** How far away is your subject? Is your subject clear and in focus? These questions all have to deal with your depth of focus.
7. **Watch for the golden hour.** The Golden hour is the time when natural light is diffused and even. This time occurs in the two hours after sunrise or two hours before sunset. Remember this during any outdoor events you attend and document.
8. **Stick to the rule of thirds.** The rule of thirds will help you compose your photo so that nothing is dead center or framed in a visually boring way. Keep your subject or composition filling two of three grid lines for this trick.
9. **Experiment with filters.** Filters can help you take your photo and make it something special. Most smartphones come equipped with filters that you can use to adjust your color,
10. **Learn how to work with motion.** Shoot in bursts; Choose your Focus; Turn off the flash; Switch to Sports Mode; Shoot from a low angle; Edit and Crop Later; Get creative!
11. **Edit your photos.** After your event make sure to take the time to edit your favorite photos. Often this will be the step that makes them outstanding finished projects. There are multiple phone and computer apps available to assist you with editing your photos.
12. **Keep your photos organized.** Whether you use a USB flash drive, an online cloud service or a CD, make sure that you use folders for each event/date and label the folders as such! This will help you locate those images later on.