



Five Tips For Better Photos

by Steve Traudt

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- **Engage Brain...** Think about what you are capturing. What are you trying to show? What caught your eye? What is your story? Are you just “taking” a photo, or are you “making” one? That is not to say that a “snap shot” cannot yield a treasure. But when possible, take time to make a more deliberate image.
- **Get Closer...** A photo can almost always be improved by getting closer. When you think you are “there”, take 3 steps closer. Study the corners; get rid of junk. What you don’t “include” is as important as what you do include.
- **Different Angles...** Most folks go along always looking straight ahead. If you can find a different angle, your photo will be more interesting. You will pique the viewer’s interest. Try kneeling down, or even lying on the ground and shooting up. Or step up on something, and shoot down.
- **Foreground Object...** Also called “framing”. We live in a 3-dimensional world. But a photograph is 2-dimensional; it only has width and height, no depth. So the challenge is to create an “illusion” that gives a sense of depth in the photo. We do that by adding some elements in the foreground (or background). This creates another “layer” of information that tricks the brain into interpreting depth. The extra element can also add “context” to your image.
- **Fill Flash...** A wonderful technique for filling in the shadows outside, especially on people pictures. Just “force” the flash to fire since the camera will automatically think the flash is not needed outside. Works best when subject is not more than 10 feet away. Improves colors. Adds sparkle to eyes. The results are magic!
- **Take Lots...** Don’t be looking for that one “perfect” photo. There are many; you just have to find a couple! Don’t be overly critical out in the field and don’t delete any until you get home and see them on your computer screen. The little screen on your camera is not a very good way to judge your photo. It is all a “numbers” game. Take many different photos changing the composition; the angle. Get closer. Try fill flash. One (or more) is bound to be a winner!



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