



TIPS FOR TAKING A GREAT PHOTO

Don't have a fancy uber expensive camera? Fear not! You don't need an expensive camera to take a great picture. Some basic knowledge can go a long way to helping help you improve your picture taking skills. Here are some tips to get you started

Holding Your Camera

Avoid blurry pictures by placing one hand under the camera, and brace that arm's elbow against your ribs to provide increased stability. You could also kneel on one knee, with the other knee forward so you can rest your camera-supporting arm on it, or lean against something stable like a wall for extra support.

Use a Tripod

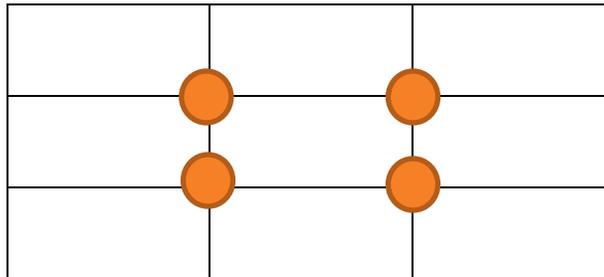
Using a tripod is an easy way to take a sharper photo, and will allow you to pay more attention to the light and composition of your picture. Tripods are great to use at award ceremonies, or other public events where you know you'll have to stay in the same position for an extended period of time. They are also good for taking photos in low light. A good tripod doesn't have to be expensive. Look for one that is simple to use with sturdy and extendable legs.

Picture Composition

We've all taken photos that don't capture the moment we experienced in person. If you want to capture the Spark of the moment, look at where all of your image's elements are within the frame, and in relation to one another. Perhaps you need to zoom in or shift your perspective. Learn to see like your camera.

The Rule of Thirds

Here's the secret rule - and once you know it, you'll see it everywhere! To understand this rule, divide your frame into nine segments. The trick is to place the thing you want people to look at on one of the four points where the lines intersect, instead of dead centre. For some reason, we humans are drawn to those four points. Furthermore, if you are photographing something with a really defined horizontal line, such as the horizon on a landscape, try placing that line in one of the "thirds" instead of in the middle of the frame. Study the way photos and paintings you like are composed, to get an idea of what works.



Happy Snapping!

Get going and start capturing the amazing work your volunteers are doing at your organization. Don't forget to post your photo along with a wonderful story about how volunteers make an impact at your organization on SPARK Ontario: www.findmyspark.ca

Tips respectfully adapted from: Rookie A Very Basic Guide to Taking a Better Photo

<http://www.rookiemag.com/2012/11/a-very-very-basic-guide-to-taking-a-better-photo/>