

# Composition

# Photo Composition

- The art of “seeing” a photo
- Learning to compose your shot in the viewfinder – not in an editor
- Force the camera to do the work for you
  - It is only a light box with a lens
  - You are the artist

In Your Head

# Composition Basics

- Review of the basics
  - Lines
  - Shapes, textures, patterns
  - Negative space
  - Angle of view
  - Framing
  - Lighting

# Anatomy of Photographs

- Subject
  - Main point of interest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Element
  - Background, foreground, and everything else
  - Provides context for the picture
- Context
  - Establish location of subject
  - Adds relevance
  - Composes the whole message

# Simplify – Fill the Frame

- Anything that is not the subject or part of the context is a distraction – remove it
- Knowing what to exclude is as important as knowing what to include
- Many ways to exclude

# Lines

- Found  
everyw  
here
- Draw  
into  
and  
around  
photo

# Lines

- Lines can be actual or implied
- Implied is how things are placed in the photo like a repeating pattern
- Can give visual movement

# Vertical Lines

- Height
- Power
- Strength
- Unknown

# Diagonal Lines

- Diagonal lines help to draw a reader through the image
- Can add dynamic look and sense of action
- Can create effective patterns

# Curved Lines

- The “S” Curve
- Curved lines that can lead off
- Draw you through
- Common with parent holding children photos

# Horizontal Lines

# Shapes, Textures, Patterns

- These elements can be combined to create endless photo opportunities
- Found in both natural and man made objects
- To capture, isolate objects from a scene then crop tight

# Shapes, Textures, Patterns

- Be aware of the lines in the scene and the effects they have on the photo
- Avoid front lighting – using side lighting will produce more detail and depth of textures

# Negative Space

- Apply rule of thirds
- Place main element at either the bottom or the top of the page
- Always consider your blank space

# Angle of View

- Different perspective
- We see life at eye level – changing this adds interest and impact
- Photos of animals and children are dramatically improved by getting down to their level

# Animal Perspective

# Framing

- Use something in the foreground / environment to frame the subject
- A foreground frame can add extra depth and help draw the eye to the subject

# Mirrors

- Mirrors can act as effective frames
- Useful for capturing candid moments
- Watch for your own reflection

# Lighting

- Diffused and Overcast
- Adds drama and mood
- Absence of shadows
- Shoot in all conditions but protect the camera
- It doesn't have to be bright and sunny for a good picture

# Condition Shots