



Ambassador Photographer

Your photos show others how you see the world. The focus in this badge is on honing your artistic skills with any type of camera and presenting the world through *your* eyes!

Steps

1. Explore the power of photography
2. Focus on composition: Shoot five landscapes
3. Focus on light: Shoot five portraits or still lifes
4. Focus on motion: Shoot five action shots
5. Tell a story with photography

Purpose:

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to capture my vision of the world in photographs.

Step 1: Explore the power of photography.

Your goal in this badge is to tell a story important to you through photos. So before you delve into the technicalities of your camera and learn basic skills, use this step to explore the stories that photography can tell.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

Go to a photography exhibit. Look at each photo without reading the accompanying text and see if you can “read” the story it tells. Note what makes at least 20 photos powerful, so you can try the techniques. If you can, gather reproductions of your favorites to keep for reference.

OR

Create a photography timeline. Make a timeline to show how photography has changed over the years, including at least 10 major moments in photography history. Then, find 10 or more photographs that are especially meaningful to you, research who took them and when, and add them to your timeline. Choose photos whose stories will help you develop ideas of your own.

OR

Get into photo ethics. What does it take to capture and tell a strong story of conflict, nature, or people? Find 20 photographs from newspapers or magazines and talk with others about the ethics involved in capturing, editing (do you think anything was altered?), and publishing them. Keep what you learn in mind as you take your own photos.



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Step 2: Focus on composition: Shoot 5 landscapes .

Now, it's time to get into photo basics! Do a little research into the four elements of composition: the "rule of thirds," framing, depth, and lead lines. When you photograph your landscapes, keep the composition guidelines in mind.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

Capture a day in the life. Shoot one scene at five intervals throughout one day. If there are people in the scene, how can you turn them into part of the landscape?

OR

Photograph weather patterns. Is a storm coming in? Take five photos at different stages—before, during, and after the storm.

OR

Take five photos from a different vantage point. Try to shoot images from above, below, or at some other angle. You might capture the landscape in a 360-degree panorama.

Step 3: Focus on light: Shoot 5 portraits or still-lives.

What features do you want to capture about a person: her fashion sense, her love of serenity? What features of an object do you want to showcase: a vase's smooth surface, a cactus's spiny texture? As you take five portraits or still-life scenes, experiment with light to see how it can help you emphasize the features you choose. Try flash, natural light, using a flash outdoors, or a light source you create.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

Invite friends to a shoot day. Set it up with fun locations, wardrobe, and props, and play around with the placement of people and objects to create your five shots.

OR

Capture the same person or object from five different perspectives. You might play around with more than light: What about distance from the object(s), zoom, and angle? If you're taking portraits, experiment with posed and candid shots.

OR



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Grow your image. Start small and photograph one person or item, then begin to add others, so your image “grows” in each of your five photos. See how the light affects its shadows and shapes, and how different textures and colors interact.

Tip: A black-velvet background absorbs unwanted light and reflection. You might also try a white piece of paper as a background, but watch for shadows.

Sidebar: Portrait Tips

- Alternate between full-body poses and close-ups
- Prevent red-eye by having your subjects look slightly away from the camera- turn on room lights to help shrink pupils
- Crack your friends up to get a natural smile instead of a forced one!

Step 4: Focus on action: Shoot 5 action shots.

Try to stop motion and retain a strong sense of movement by doing one of the choices below.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

Take photos of a group or an individual in motion. A group could be a sports team, a dance company, or your friends running. Capture an individual in five stages: maybe a pole vaulter picking up her pole, running, taking off, going over the pole, and landing . . . or five quick shots at the top.

OR

Take photos of faces in motion. Capture five different faces in action, or the same person with five different active expressions—perhaps a growing smile, a nod, a wink, a blink, or a vigorous head shake.

OR

Take photos of objects in motion. Shoot five different objects, or one object in five different stages of motion—perhaps a basketball, a fast car, a falling leaf, or a festive spritz of bubbles.

Pro Tip:



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If you're not using a tripod, hold your breath when you press the shutter; that helps keep the camera steady. If you are standing, brace your elbow against your chest. If crouching, use your knee to support your elbow.

Step 5: Tell a story with photography.

Use your new skills to tell a photographic story that means something to you. Do you want to show others a cause close to your heart, or create the story of you for a résumé or college application? Take your photographs, then share them in one of these ways.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

Stage a photo exhibit. Show your photos at home, school, or at a community center.

OR

Make a digital slide show. Post your photographic story in a private online space for family and friends.

OR

Create a photo album or scrapbook. Share your creation with others.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Educating and inspiring others by using photographs to support a cause
- Documenting an important event for my family or community
- Giving a basic photography course to other Girl Scouts

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