

PHOTO TIPS

General information:

- Digital photos may be sent via email attached as a “jpeg” format (NOT imbedded in the email itself nor sent in a pay-for-photo album). Take pictures at the **highest resolution and largest size** to ensure good quality for print reproduction. Email to Kathy Carol at council headquarters: kathy@gsgcf.org .
- If emailing a scanned photo, please scan the picture at 300 dpi for the best quality for reproduction.
- Actual prints on good quality paper may be submitted. On the back of the photo, write the name and date of the event, and identify the people in the photo (left to right, front row, back row, etc.). **ONLY USE a No. 2 pencil to write on the back of photos.** (All other writing materials will eventually “eat” through the photo paper.) Please submit a duplicate photo in order to eliminate the time and expense of returning photos.
- **IMPORTANT: If taking a picture of anyone who is NOT a register Girl Scout and you intend to submit the picture, you must have the person sign a "Photo Release" form.** For a minor, a parent/guardian must sign. (You will find a copy in your leader packet).

How to take a better picture:

- Close-ups are always better.
- It's better to have fewer subjects in the photo than many (four or less is best).
- Walk around the photo op to select best angle for the most interesting composition.
- Watch for background objects so they don't look like they're "growing" out of someone's head.
- Avoid cluttered backgrounds.
- Avoid backgrounds that blend in with subject; look for contrast to skin color and clothing.
- "Balance" photo with tall people behind and shorter in front and take into consideration the contrast of light- and dark-colored clothing.
- Watch for "backlight" behind subjects. A window or other source of light behind the subject will fool an automatic camera and indicate there is enough light without using a flash. Read camera instructions to override “auto” and use fill-in flash or regular flash:
 - indoors
 - indoors where there is back light (window, open door, or other strong source of light)
 - outside when the sun is directly overhead and produces shadows on subjects' faces
 - at night and within 12-15 feet of subjects.
- Action shots are better for activities and events.
- Posed shots are best for recognitions (as the award is being given or received with award in hand).
- Get the subjects to SMILE and be enthusiastic.
- Take at least two "shots" just in case someone was "asleep" on the first one.
- Use your creative imagination and HAVE FUN!