

IN THE RIGHT *frame* OF MIND

Calling All Fledgling Shutterbugs!



© Can Stock Photo Inc. / [parinyabinsuk]

You may have heard the saying that when in nature, you should “leave only footprints and take only pictures.” It’s a great reminder to respect that we are in other creatures’ habitats and must not leave trash behind or remove natural objects.

But what about that picture part? Photos are a great way to tell the story of your outdoor adventures with your family. Nature photography is also a gentle-on-the-earth way of taking a part of your experience with you.

Taking pictures is easier and less expensive than ever. No film canisters or bulky cameras are necessary as most phones now feature high-quality cameras. Since your photo results are instant, you can review the image on the screen to make sure you captured the perfect shot or to improve your technique. So gather your family and head outdoors to snap some photo memories! Try these tips to make your pictures more interesting:

STILL LIFE. Hold your camera or phone steady, and push the button softly to keep your subject sharp and in focus. Always keep the eyes of your subject in focus (whether it’s a person or animal!).

FRESH ANGLE. Get down on your belly for a close-up picture of a frog, or up high to capture an interesting overview of a scene. Think about doing something more creative than the default position of taking a photo from your normal standing height.

RULE OF THIRDS. Instead of putting your subject perfectly in the centre of your frame, imagine that invisible lines segment your photo into thirds, both horizontally and vertically. Align your subject with one of the lines for a unique composition.

BE CANDID. Remember, part of the magic of photos are the natural actions, reactions, and emotions of the subject!

DROP OR CROP. If there is something at the edge of your photo that isn’t adding to the story of your picture then try not to include it in the first place or crop it out later.

SNAP HAPPY. Don’t be afraid to take lots of photos! Keep the ones you like the most or tell the best story of your adventure. National Geographic photographers only ever have about 10% of their photos published.

Photo Assignment:

Pick a favourite location in nature. Visit this spot repeatedly over a year and create a photo journal of this special place. How does it change with the seasons or time of day? Which plants and animals and birds do you see at different times of the year and what activities are they engaged in?

The Exploration Club for Families... NatureKids BC helps children get outdoors to play, imagine and explore in nearby nature. Join a family nature club near you or become a free-range member. Find out more at: www.naturekidsbc.ca. If you are already a member you can use this activity as part of your Action Awards Quest!

