

HOLIDAY PHOTOS CHECKLIST

1. Gear Prep

- ☐ Clean your sensors
- ☐ Clean your lenses
- ☐ Charge all batteries
- ☐ Clear all memory cards (and camera phones)
- ☐ Get spare batteries and memory cards
- ☐ Keep cameras in central, easy to grab location

2. Light

- ☐ Try shooting with available light at night
- ☐ Bounce your flash
- ☐ Use unique light sources (candles, fireplace, tree lights)

3. Story

- ☐ Take scene setting shots
- ☐ Get detail shots
- ☐ Introduce the characters
- ☐ Capture the action
- ☐ Find a conclusion
- ☐ Use the "Wide, Medium, Tight" trick

4. Composition

- ☐ Use the Rule of Thirds for balance and interest
- ☐ Find frames to draw attention
- ☐ Leave negative space
- ☐ Use layering to create depth

5. Portraits

- ☐ Let everyone know about portraits
- ☐ Set a time and location
- ☐ Write a list of portrait groupings
- ☐ Test camera settings before starting

6. Posing

- ☐ Shoot from slightly above eye level
- ☐ Get heads close
- ☐ If it bends, bend it (elbows, knees)

7. Shoot Video

- ☐ Look for action
- ☐ Hold steady (use a monopod, tripod, tabletop, or stand still)

8. Take Turns

- ☐ Get your settings right
- ☐ Hand off the camera or help the little ones try it
- ☐ Try an instant camera or instant printer

9. Include Yourself

- ☐ Set the timer and run into the frame
- ☐ Use a tripod and remote and take a lot of shots
- ☐ Let your friends and family (or strangers) take a shot of you

10. Take More Photos

- ☐ Take more photos than you think you'll need, of the things you'd like to remember

11. Share Quickly

- ☐ Post a few shots to social media during the holidays
- ☐ Share the best, not all of them
- ☐ Create an online gallery for your friends and family to view
- ☐ Make loose prints
- ☐ Design an album

12. Back It Up

- ☐ Back the photos up onto a computer as soon as possible
- ☐ Store the files on multiple hard drives in case of failure
- ☐ Take one copy of the files offsite
- ☐ Do not delete memory cards until files are properly backed up

BONUS! Balance

- ☐ Put down the camera and enjoy!