

DIY Park Quest

Nature Photography



Nature Photography - A New Perspective in Your Favorite State Parks

Nature is all around us, especially when we are in a park! Nature photography is a great way to learn about plants, animals, and other natural features. Nature photography can be done anywhere outdoors. Check off each challenge that you complete. Write down the titles of your favorite photos to remember your Park Quest adventures! This activity can be completed at one park during a single visit, or at a variety of parks over the summer- it's your choice!

Nature Photography Challenge #1: Learn to Observe

Before you start snapping photos, take a seat and quietly observe the scene in front of you for 5-10 minutes. The best nature photographers often wait a long time to get that perfect shot. Let nature exist around you. Take note of any wildlife or plants you may be interested in capturing with a photo.

Nature Photography Challenge #2: Get Down to the Ground

Have you looked down lately? You can find many interesting subjects on the ground. Look around you for insects, interesting plants, leaves, rock formations, and more! Don't take the photo towering above your subject, though -- be sure to crouch down to capture the object in all its glory!

Nature Photography Challenge #3: Look for Tiny Things

Taking a close-up photo of something tiny, like an insect, is called *macro photography*. Photos of little things can reveal fascinating details! Try your hand at basic macro photography by taking a close-up image of something. On a camera phone, touch the screen to focus on your subject. To start off, try taking a picture of a slow-moving insect like a caterpillar, or capture the complex beauty of a leaf or flower up close.

Nature Photography Challenge #4: Get Good Lighting

Lighting is important in getting a good photo. Check to see where the sun is by looking for where your shadow lies. For best results, take photos with the sun behind you or lighting the subject from the side. Take photos at different times of day to see how the lighting changes from early morning to the middle of the day to evening.

Nature Photography Challenge #5: Capture Motion with a Photo Series

Take a lot of photos! You'll have a lot of photos to choose from and you can always delete the ones you don't want to keep. Try to get a good picture of something on the move by taking photos repeatedly. Find a bird at a feeder or a bug on a leaf and take photos quickly until the animal flies away. Now look at your photos: you'll have captured your subject in a range of motion!

Bonus- If you take a photo you really like, consider entering it in the Maryland Natural Resource Photo Contest! Go to dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx for more info. Contest ends on August 31, 2020.



Larry Hogan, Governor; Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Maryland Park Service, 580 Taylor Ave, E-3 Annapolis, MD 21401
1-800-830-3974 dnr.maryland.gov 5/2020