

## General Tips for Taking Good Pictures

Become known as a great photographer! You can do it! You don't have to have a fancy camera these days because many cell phone cameras take great quality pictures. You just need to know how to make the pictures interesting and eye-catching. You can take free classes at community colleges and at several stores or can look up photography tips on YouTube! It is also helpful to brush up on your computer skills and photo editing tools.

- Post TRTA Photo Policy
  - Have a statement in directory
  - Have a statement on agenda
  - Post statement on screen before meeting
  - Announce at beginning of meeting
  - Have opt-out forms available
- Get close to your subjects! Make it personal! You can also crop later.
- Include candid pictures – catch those fun moments!
- Use natural light when you can.
- Take multiple pictures – get people's eyes open!
- Avoid harsh shadows.
- Don't let people stand up against walls; make them step out a few steps.
- Sharpen your artist's eye.
- Watch out for the backgrounds that ruin pictures (that you sometimes don't see under pressure and that can't be cropped out): A flagpole growing out of someone's head, a square red exit sign, an ugly trash can, a huge restroom sign, a door behind two people and not the others.
- Don't be afraid to use your TEACHER VOICE and move/arrange people to make a nice arrangement for a photo. You will be proud of it and they will appreciate it and want to put it on their social media. Trust me.
- Be sure to get into some of the pictures yourself. You can have another member take it or use a self-timer.
- When photographing large groups, try using different levels if possible (standing and sitting, using stairs).
- Try giving them something to do or to laugh at.
- Children's Book Project photos: **NO** Children's faces.
  - Take backs of heads, or
  - Have them put the book in front of their face