

Group Photos for the Holidays - Why take pictures?

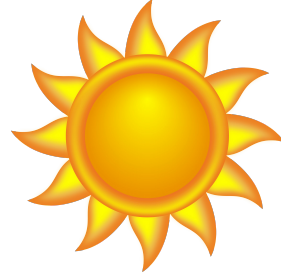
- 1. Plan ahead and prepare!
- 2. Carefully choose the location.
- 3. Take multiple pictures.
- 4. Get in close.
- 5. Pose the group.
- 6. Time your group photo.
- 7. Think about the light
- 8. Take control.
- 9. Use a tripod.
- 10. Use an assistant.
- 11. Use the PhotoTimer - So you can be in the Photo, too!



Point, Shoot, Share - Smartphone Photography Tips for Seniors

Group Photos for the Holidays

- Why take holiday pictures?



Have lasting memories!

Print your own Photos on your own Printer!

Share your Camera/Phone photos with friends! Email or txt 'em!

Make inexpensive Prints - Walgreens, CVS, Online Platforms

Everyone enjoys photographs and you will be very popular!



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1. Plan ahead and prepare!

- Scope out the location of your shot beforehand.
- Think about how you will pose people and frame your shot.

Then, a few minutes before the photo:

- Make sure everyone you want in the shot *knows* that you want them in the shot.
- Make sure your phone is charged!



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2. Carefully choose the Location

The group photo location is important for a number of reasons:

- Location gives the photo context.
For example, put everyone in front of a nice wall of pictures, or a decorated tree, or your table.
- Location can help *emphasize* your group – or it can draw the eye.
To make the group stand out, you'll need a location with no distractions.



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(cont.)

Choose a place where your group will fit.

Where there is enough light for the photo.

Where there are no distracting surroundings.

BIG TIP! Avoid setting up a group shot *directly in front of a window*.

Faces need to be in the light. Light behind the group will make their faces dark or if you use a flash, the light from your flash might reflect back in an unpleasant way!



3. Take multiple pictures

Sometimes, it's tough to get *everyone* looking just right at the exact same time.

- Take multiple photos quickly.
After a shot or two, your group will look less posed and more relaxed.
- Mix up the framing of your pictures a little. How close or far away?

BIG TIP

Shoot a few times before everyone is ready and check that everyone is in the picture.

- The organization of the photo can be quite comical and image-worthy!

4. Get in close

- Try to get as close as you can to the group you're photographing (without cutting out group members, of course!).
The closer you can get, the more detail you'll capture in their faces – something that can really elevate a shot.
- If your group is small, step in and take some head and shoulder shots.
Another effective technique is to get everyone to “lean in”.
- You might also try moving everyone out of a one-line formation
Place some people in front and behind.



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5. Pose the group

In most cases, your group will pose itself pretty naturally (after all, we've all been in a group shot at some point). Tall people will go to the back, short people to the front. But there are other things you can do to improve the photo's composition:

- If the event is centered around only a few people (like a wedding or a birthday), make the hosts the focal point!
Put them right in the middle (add variation by taking some shots of everyone looking at the camera and other shots, looking at the hosts).
- Put taller members toward back *center* of the shot, shorter people at edges. (Formal)
- Don't make group too deep (i.e., keep a distance between front line and the back line as short as you can). This will help keep everyone in focus.
- Tell everyone to raise their chins a little; they'll thank you when they see a picture without any double chins!



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Compositions



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6. Time your group shot well

Carefully pick the moment for your photo.

Choose a time that works with what is happening.

Take the photo when everyone is already close together or when there is a lull.

The start of an event can be a good time to shoot; everyone is together, they all look their best, and haven't been partying too hard.



Remind important people to keep drink glasses away from their face!



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7. Think about the light

To get enough detail in the final shot, you need to have sufficient light. The way to do this varies from situation to situation – but consider using a flash, especially if the main source of light is coming from behind the group. Try with and without.

If it's a bright day and the sun is low, don't face your subjects toward the light – otherwise, you'll end up with a collection of squinting faces.



When shooting an individual, try not to cut off the top of their head...



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8. Take control

A photographer loses control of their subjects for two reasons:

- Not being quick enough. (This is reason to plan and prepare the picture.)
They didn't communicate well with the group.
- When taking a group photo, it's important to keep talking
 - Let the group know what you want them to do
 - Motivate them to smile.
 - Tell them that they look great.
 - Make clear how long the photo will take to shoot.
 - Give your subjects a reason to pose (and to listen to you).
“The happy couple has asked me to get some group shots.”

BIG TIP: If there are other photographers, just wait until all photos are finished. Then get the attention of the whole group. Otherwise, everyone will be looking in different directions.



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9. Use a tripod

There are several reasons why tripods are great for seniors and photographers with disabilities when taking photos.

- A tripod communicates seriousness and can help get the group's attention.
- A tripod helps you to pose your subjects.
- A tripod keeps the camera still, and positioned while arranging poses.
- A tripod keeps the camera still, and positioned, while using the PhotoTimer.



10. Use an Assistant

They can help get the group organized – when to come, where to stand, etc.

A family member acting as your assistant ensures you don't miss anyone!

Plus, the group will be familiar with them and will therefore respond well when the “assistant” orders them around.



11. Use the PhotoTimer



Basic Camera Tools



Flash On

HDR

High Definition Resolution



Flash Off



High Definition Resolution Off



Live Photos On



Photo Timer



Live Photos Off



Photo Filters

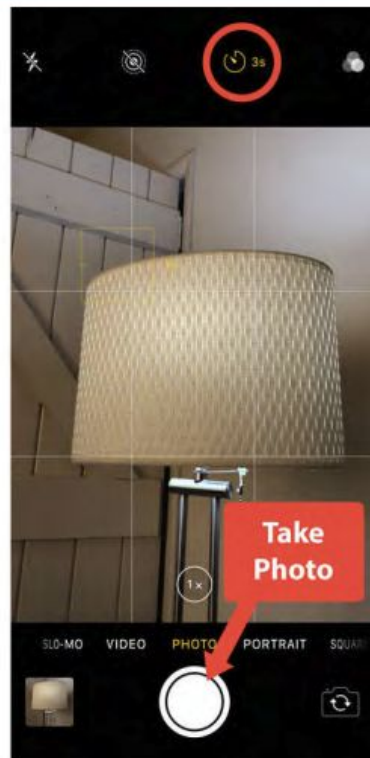
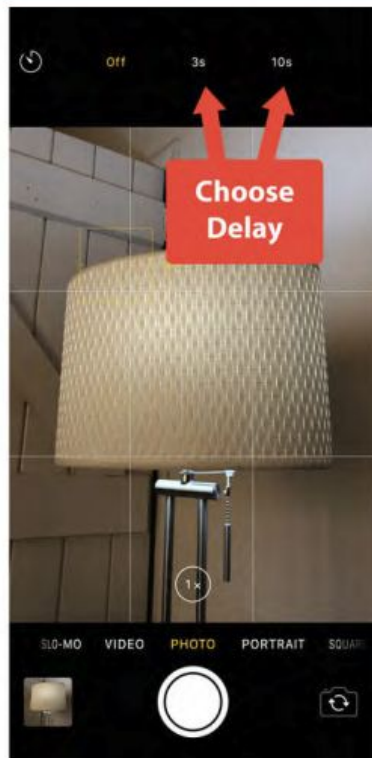


Flip Between Front Facing &
Rear Facing Camera



Photo Timer

On some newer phones you may have to pull additional controls down from the top.



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