

## AMBASSADOR PHOTOGRAPHY BADGE

**Badge Purpose:** When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to capture your vision of the world in photographs.

Activity	Materials Needed
One Thousand Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the history of photojournalism.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
Compose Yourself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice techniques to compose great photos.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera
Golden Eye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spend a day photographing to practice shooting in different kinds of lighting.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
Focus Pocus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use two techniques to capture motion in picture.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
It's Your Story – Picture It! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use photography to tell a story, then share it with others.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access

### Getting Started

- Decide whether you want to shoot on film or digitally. Either way, familiarize yourself with your camera and its settings (white balance, shutter speed, aperture, etc.) before starting this badge.
- Review the “rules” of photography like the rule of thirds, leading lines, depth, etc. Some good resources:
  - Five Easy Composition Guidelines: [bit.ly/5easycompositionguidelines](http://bit.ly/5easycompositionguidelines)
  - Photo Composition Rules: [bit.ly/photocompositionrules](http://bit.ly/photocompositionrules)
  - Intro to Photography: [bit.ly/introtophoto](http://bit.ly/introtophoto)

### Activity #1: One Thousand Words

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Explore the power of photography

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access; notebook; pen

- Photographers have used pictures to convey important news stories, issues, and crises happening around the world. Explore the history and power of photojournalism. If there's an exhibit in your community, pay a visit and see the photographs in person. If you can't make it to a museum, go online and scroll through the Pulitzer Prize-winning photography or Women Photograph, which highlights work by female journalists.



- Pulitzer Prize winners: [pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-category/217](http://pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-category/217)
  - Women Photograph: [womenphotograph.com](http://womenphotograph.com)
2. As you examine the photos, keep in mind the “rules” of photography. Which photos do you find the most emotionally evocative? What makes them powerful and compelling? Jot down notes of what you observe as a reference when you start taking photos yourself.

## Activity #2: Compose Yourself

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Badge Connection: Step 2 – Focus on composition

Materials Needed: Camera

1. Choose one object (or landscape) and shoot five different pictures of it. There are a few ways you can change up the way you photograph the subject—shoot it from afar, change the angle that you photograph it (instead of shooting it while standing, squat down, change the aperture to blur or focus the background, etc.), look for leading lines to direct the eye to the object, etc.

## Activity #3: Golden Eye

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Badge Connection: Step 3 – Focus on light

Materials Needed: Camera; notebook; pen

1. Spend an entire day photographing—start and end with the photographer’s “golden hour” (shortly after sunrise and just before sunset). Ideally, choose a clear, sunny day to get the best results.
2. Walk around your neighborhood and take pictures of people (ask for permission first), objects, or landscapes that capture your eye. Make a note of how the light changes during the day, and what adjustments you need to make on your camera relative to these changes in natural lighting.

## Activity #4: Focus Pocus

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Badge Connection: Step 4 – Focus on motion

Materials Needed: Camera; notebook; pen

1. The shutter speed controls how much light comes into your camera. Generally, the faster your shutter speed, the crisper and sharper your images will be.
2. When shooting motion, you can play with how focused or blurry the subjects in your photo are. Play around with different shutter speeds to see how the different settings affect capturing motion on your camera.
3. Try these two techniques for capturing motion; take five photos for each technique:
  - **Blurred subject; focused background.** Think about photos you’ve seen of cityscapes where the headlights from the car are blurry, but the buildings behind them are in sharp focus. Or, pictures of waterfalls where the cascading water is blurry, but the rocks and trees are crystal clear. To create this contrast, use a slow shutter speed and a tripod to ensure your camera stays steady.
  - **Focused subject; blurred background.** Think about photos you’ve seen with a person on a bike who seems frozen in motion while the background speeds by. To create this contrast, use a slow shutter speed and another technique called **panning**. Instead of using a tripod to keep your camera steady, pan your camera along the same speed/rate of movement and directional path as your subject (i.e. running alongside the person as they bike down a path).
4. For both techniques, play around with your shutter speed to see how it affects the blurriness/focus of your pictures.



## Activity #5: It's Your Story – Picture It!

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Badge Connection: Step 5 – Tell a story with photography

Materials Needed: Camera; phone or computer with internet access

1. Now that you've practiced different ways and techniques of capturing the world on film, use your photos to tell a story.
2. Is there a special event or occasion (like your grandmother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday or your friend's graduation) you want to record for posterity? Or, do you want to be like the photojournalists you researched in the first activity and shed light on a community cause or issue?
3. Capture your story in pictures, then share them with friends and family through a secure photo hosting site. Some options: Flickr, Google Photos, Instagram (make sure your account is private).

