

Total time:
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level:
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting of a group
- Working with different personalities
- Proper posing
- Capturing expressions

CREATING PORTRAITS OF FAMILIES



Family portraiture will be the most difficult to master as you learn. You're dealing with multiple individuals of varying ages. The lighting can be challenging, as well as managing the different personalities. The family may be as small as two people or as large as dozens of people.

KEY LESSON: Avoid backlighting unless it has a muted intensity. Do not "line up" subjects. Vary the height of the heads. Coordinate clothing to avoid clashing colors and patterns. Have family members touch each other. Avoid hats. Be careful of the depth of field.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT

- Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, or compact camera or smartphone

- Lens + lens hood

Larger Groups -> 18mm - 28mm
Smaller groups-> 28mm -135mm

- Tripod & Shutter Release

- Clothing & Props

Similar colors and no distinct patterns



TIPS!

Shooting Mode	A / Av	White balance	AWB AUTO
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> Single shot	Format	RAW + JPG
Focus Mode	AF-S	Metering	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluative / matrix
Shutter Speed	1/125th or faster	Focus Points	<input type="checkbox"/> All focus points
ISO	400 adjust to facilitate shutter speed (minimum 125th)		
Aperture	f/8 - f/11 Small groups f/16 Larger groups		



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Start with a small family- no more than four. Set up a portrait session outdoors and select a clean background with a neutral or solitary color.
- 2- Shoot during the Golden Hour. Be conscious of the light intensity in the eyes of the subjects. Use backlight only if low intensity such as a light overcast sky.
- 3- Mount your camera onto the tripod. Look over the camera when shooting the pictures to engage the group. Keep heads tilted toward each other, and have family members touching.
- 4- Setup your camera following the tips.
- 5- Study sample photographs.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did your depth of field cover the entire group?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture interesting expressions on everyone?
- Is everyone's eyes open?
- Did you use soft even lighting?
- Is your color accurate? (Look at the skin)
- Did you pose with varying head heights?