



Do you want pointers on how to take good photos of your unit? Would the youth in your unit enjoy learning to take great photos? Would you like to explore your creativity through photography? Then the BC Photo Challenge is for you! Learn to take WOW photos and earn a crest!

To earn the BC Photo Challenge crest, complete the requirements as outlined below. Crests can be ordered using the form available on the [BC Girl Guide website challenge page](#).

***Please note: In order to receive the crest, you will be required to submit the photos taken as part of the challenge to [bc-crests@girlguides.ca](mailto:bc-crests@girlguides.ca). (If Guiding members are visible in your photos, please ensure that they have image releases on file allowing their photos to be taken.)***

***By submitting your photos to the BC PR committee, you agree to allow your photos to be used for Girl Guide public relations, such as in Social media and other BC Girl Guides promotional tools.***

## Introduction

Taking pictures is fun and easy. As with all activities, there are some basic things to know before you start:

### 1. Be safe

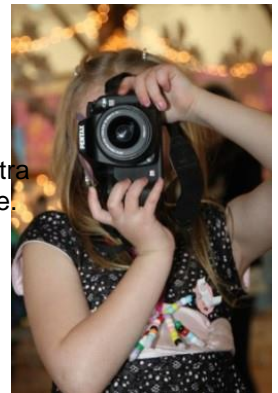
The first, most important thing to remember when taking pictures is to stay safe. Don't do anything that will put you or your subject at risk for an accident.

### 2. Be kind to yourself

A professional photographer may take a hundred pictures and decide only one is good enough to print. Be prepared to take lots of pictures and don't be disappointed if you don't get that special shot right away. Don't keep the poor pictures unless they are telling a story that is important to you.

### 3. Know how your camera works

Read the instruction manual before you go out to find that perfect shot. If you are unable to figure out how it works, ask at a local store that sells cameras like yours. Always carry an extra memory card and extra batteries—don't miss that perfect picture for a lack of power or space.



## Resource Document: Adding WOW to Your Pictures

An additional resource document has been developed to help you learn to take WOW photos and complete the challenge. The four WOW factors are explained and at least one picture is included for each WOW factor that forms the core challenge. To download a copy, go to [BC Website under Challenges](#).

## BC PHOTO CHALLENGE

### BC Council

### Photo Challenge Requirements

- Sparks: Complete parts 1, 2 and 3 of the core challenge and any **two** of the general challenges
- Embers: Complete parts 1, 2 and 3 of the core challenge and any **three** of the general challenges
- Guides: Complete all four parts of the core challenge and any **four** of the general challenges
- Pathfinders, Rangers and adults:  
Complete all four parts of the core challenge and any **five** of the general challenges

### Core Challenge

The purpose of the core challenge is to learn about each of the WOW factors that are explained in the Photo Challenge Resource available on the BC website. The core challenge may be done in small groups with one or two cameras per group.

Sparks and Embers are to complete core challenges 1–3.

Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and adults are to complete challenges 1–4.

***Whenever possible, make Guiding visible in your photos with the inclusion of uniform, cookies or other Guiding items.***

***Remember that, in order to receive the crest, you will be required to submit the photos taken as part of the challenge to the BC PR committee, and the photos may be used for Girl Guide PR purposes.***

#### 1. WOW #1: MOVE IN CLOSE (all)

Take a picture of a Guiding friend the way that you normally would.

Now move in closer and take it again so that you have a picture of just their head and shoulders.

Next take a picture of three Guiding friends and have them pose really close together with arms around each other. Move in close so that their heads take up most of the picture.

After each youth has taken her pictures, look at them together and talk about what you like and why.

#### 2. WOW #2: CHANGE THE ANGLE (all)

Take a picture of your friend from a different angle—from the side, from above or from below. For example, ask your partner to sit down on the ground and take her picture while you are still standing.

Do the opposite and have them stand up while you get down on the ground and take a picture looking up at them.

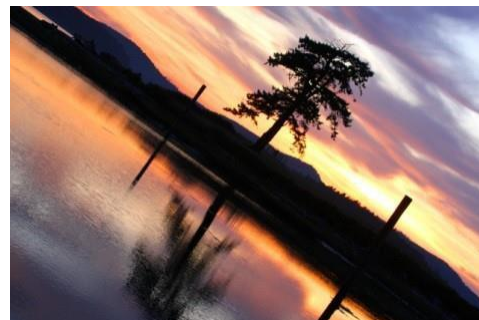
#### 3. WOW #3: RULE OF THIRDS (all)

Take a picture of a scene using the rule of thirds across the picture.

Place a person in the scene and take the picture using double thirds.

#### 4. WOW #4: GOLDEN HOUR (G, P, R, Adults)

Take a picture outdoors in the hour before sunrise or the hour after sunrise.





### General Challenges

In addition to the core challenges outlined above, complete the following:

Sparks: **two** of the general challenges  
Embers: **three** of the general challenges  
Guides: **four** of the general challenges  
Pathfinders, Rangers and adults: **five** of the general challenges.

***Whenever possible, make Guiding visible in your photos with the inclusion of uniform, cookies or other Guiding items.***

***Remember that, in order to receive the crest, you will be required to submit the photos taken as part of the challenge to the BC PR committee.***

1. Go for a walk around your meeting place or your camp and take pictures of a man-made structure from three different angles.
2. Go to a wilderness environment or back yard and take a picture of two different birds or insects. The best place to get a picture of birds is where they eat. A bird at a bird feeder will go to a certain branch for a second before it goes to the feeder... have your camera ready on that branch—it makes a better picture than the feeder.
3. Go into a flower garden, move in close and take a picture of a flower in bloom. Change the angle and take a second picture. Move in closer and change the angle again for a third picture. Try to keep the sun at your back.
4. Take three different pictures of water using the rule of thirds.
5. Take three pictures of fire (candle flame, campfire, etc.), using the zoom feature on your camera for at least one of them.
6. Take three pictures that feature your favorite colour. In one of the pictures try to have the whole picture that colour using different textures, shapes and objects.
7. Take three pictures of your friends and have them get closer together for each picture.
8. Take three different pictures after sunset when the sky is bright with colours.
9. Take three pictures that demonstrate pollution.
10. Take three pictures of city or countryscenes.
11. Take three different pictures of nature in action such as rain, wind, waves or clouds.
12. Take three different pictures that include Girl Guide cookies.
13. Take three pictures at a sleepover or camp that show why you love to go camping.
14. Create a 60-second video that highlights why you are a member of Guiding.
15. Create a computer-generated photo collage of at least ten of your pictures.

## ADDING WOW TO YOUR PICTURES

A resource for the BC Photo Challenge



Taking phenomenal pictures is easier when the four **wow** factors are used.

### WOW #1: MOVE IN CLOSER

Magazines show a lot of close-ups of people, and they can be stunning shots. As an example, baby photographers will move in so close that they only take a picture of the toes, or the fingers or an ear. In the photo on the right, six former provincial commissioners were asked to get closer, closer, just a little closer until they burst out laughing. Click and **wow**!



### WOW #2: CHANGE THE ANGLE

Most people take pictures straight on. This can be a nice picture... but to make it a great picture, try changing the angle and take the picture differently than what is normally done, from above, below or from a side.



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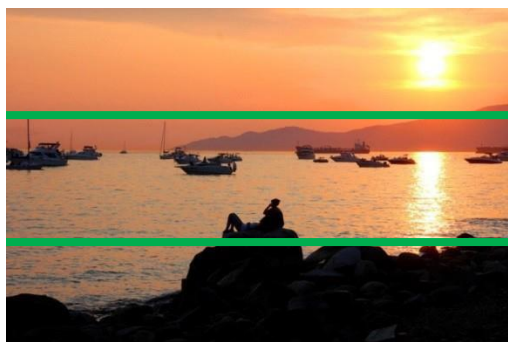


### WOW #3: RULE OF THIRDS

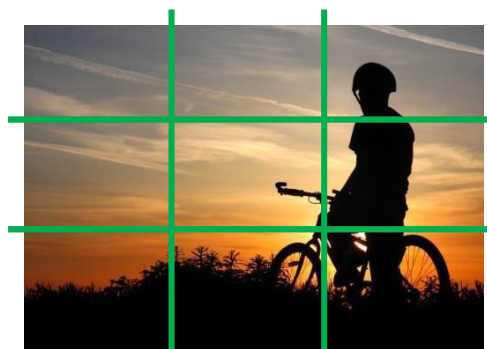
When people take a picture of a lake or ocean, they often have the horizon across the middle of the picture and half of the picture is lake water and the other half is sky. The result may be nice but it won't be a **wow** picture.

Instead, imagine that there are two invisible lines running across your picture, dividing it into three sections. Each section is one-third of the picture. Look at the scene and decide which is nicer—the water or the sky. If the water is stunning and the sky is so-so, line up the horizon—the place where the water meets the sky—so that only one-third of the picture is sky and two-thirds is water. If the sky is stunning and the water is so-so, line up the horizon so that the sky is two-thirds of the picture.

Vertical thirds will also work. Divide the scene into three equal sections—left, center and right. If you were taking a picture of your buddy, you would be tempted to put their face right in the middle. But try instead to move their face shot over to the side... and now take the picture. How did it turn out? Try moving their face to the other side—still works! Having their face in the center will work but having it to one side can make it a **wow** picture.



Once the basic rule of thirds is mastered, you can try double thirds. Imagine that you are taking a picture of the sun setting behind a lake. Compose the picture so that you have one-third land, one-third water and one-third sky. Then move a bit so that you have a friend, a tree or a rock on one side of the picture. This gives you the rule of thirds going across (sky, water and land) and going up and down (tree) and that is a double **wow** picture!



## ADDING WOW TO YOUR PICTURES

A resource for the BC Photo Challenge



### WOW #4: GOLDEN HOUR

The camera does not and cannot see exactly what the eye sees. The camera only sees light and variations of light, while our eyes see so much more than that. This is why the picture you take doesn't turn out the way you saw it. The camera will always focus on the light source as being the most important thing that you are looking at. If you take a picture of a person and she appears dark in the picture when you don't want her to, then try adding some light by using your flash. Sometimes you may want her to be dark especially if just before sunrise or sunset.

The best scenic pictures are taken in that hour when the sunlight is golden, before sunset or just after sunrise. The sky and clouds become amazing shades of orange, pink, mauve and purple. What's really nice about this time of the day is that you can take a picture of your friend standing in front of the sunset and she and everything else—rocks in the water, boats in the water, trees on the land, etc.—will be dark with the bright sky behind. Move the subject to the side of the picture and you may have a picture that is worthy of being in a magazine. Remember not to have more than one-third of the picture dark because then it becomes too much and loses the **wow** factor.



#### Credits

The BC Photo Challenge resource was developed by the BC public relations committee with the assistance of Marlene Graham, Fraser Skies Area, BC. Marlene's photos have been published in *Pipeline*, *Canadian Guide*, *Our Canada*, *Vision* (BC Parks) and more. She is usually seen behind the camera, not in front of it. All photos in the challenge and resource documents were taken by Marlene Graham.