

Code of Ethics

Casual and Action Photography always tell the truth. We do not alter or digitally manipulate the content of a photograph in any way

The faces or identities of individuals will not be obscured (Used only with permission)

Minor adjustments in Photoshop are acceptable. These include cropping, dodging and burning, conversion into grayscale, and normal toning and color adjustments that really necessary for clear and accurate reproduction

Be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects.

Resist being manipulated by staged photo opportunities.

Avoid stereotyping individuals and groups.

Recognize and work to avoid presenting one's own biases in the work.

Treat all subjects with respect and dignity. Give special consideration to vulnerable subjects and compassion to victims of crime or tragedy

Will not pay sources or subjects or reward them materially for information or participation.

Will not accept gifts, favors, or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage.

Will not intentionally sabotage the efforts of other journalists

Environment

In natural areas, principles of Leave No Trace.

Photograph plants and animals in their natural habitat engaging in their normal behaviours.

Protect the environment by picking up trash I find when in the field.

Do not move objects, pull plants or otherwise 'tidy' a scene..

Treat wild animals living in an urban environment, such as songbirds, with the same respect that I accord to those living in the wild. I keep rare species safe and intact by not broadcasting the location of a fragile area, plant or animal.

Social

Treat all people with respect.

We are aware of position and how it may interfere with the ability of the photographers and non-photographers around to enjoy a scene.

Self

I adopt this Code of Ethics and strive to adhere to these important principles.

I know and respect my physical limitations and keep myself out of harm's way by avoiding situations where my health and safety or the health and safety of others could be put at risk by my actions.

I educate myself about the weather, terrain, culture and potential hazards before visiting a new area.

I am always forthcoming about my post-processing and refrain from representing my photographs as something they are not.

Ethical Photography

Respect for subjects and the communities

Research and Reflect

Research the people and places we will be visiting before traveling — and certainly before taking a photograph.

Give deep consideration to the emotional, psychological, political, economic, cultural, social or physical circumstances of the subject before taking a photograph. Ask yourself, could the photo harm the person or people in it in any way?

Request Consent

Always ask for consent before taking a photo, whether through gestures or the native language. If you don't receive consent, don't take the photo. If at any point a participant decides they don't want their photograph taken or used, respect their wishes.

Don't attempt to hide your camera or the fact that you are taking a picture.

Privacy and Confidentiality

When photographing issues that are culturally or politically sensitive, take care to protect the identity and privacy of the individuals photographed.

When photographing minors, individuals with special needs or in clinical settings, take photographs with the utmost care, compassion and consideration for privacy.

Don't intrude on private moments such as grieving; be considerate of the situation you find yourself photographing.

Don't take advantage of a person's trust. If they have asked for privacy or confidentiality regarding their identity or circumstances, respect their wishes.

Give Respect, Give Context to Images

Contextualize your photo so as to not contribute to stereotypes or generalizations.

What story does the photograph tell? Does it risk perpetuating a "single story" about the place or people you are photographing? A "single story" reduces complex situations, communities and peoples to a single, dominant narrative; a narrative that is often misleading and simplistic.

Will not take a controversial photograph for the sole purpose of being controversial.

NATURES CODE OF ETHICS

Ethics is treating people, animals, objects and nature in a proper manner. Our environment is an interdependent web of natural resources. These resources are soil, water, air, plants and animals. When we use any one of these resources there is a cause and effect relationship on one or more of the other resources. A balanced use of these resources and in some cases preservation, ensures these resources will be sustained for the future. An outdoor classroom is an excellent "environment" for teaching the respect and wise use of natural resources.

When you are roaming around the countryside or park, enjoying the outside, please keep the following in mind:

Respect the habitats of wildlife. You are a guest in their homes when you explore the outdoors. Observe wildlife from a distance when possible so as not to alter their normal behavior.

Observe, examine, but don't take or destroy. Return study specimens back the way you found them.

Do not destroy or disfigure plants and animals unnecessarily or against environmental laws.

Do not litter. Pack it in, pack it out. Keep the outdoors clean. If you find litter, put it into receptacles.

Hike only on designated trails to reduce potential destruction of surrounding areas.

Follow the laws that protect and conserve our natural resources for future generations.

Do take pictures as memories of the day

Always be mindful of the circumstances you are in and invite others to follow these practices when enjoying nature.

DO NOT

Do not harm wildlife – Countless challenges threaten animals' survival, so their welfare should always take precedence over people's desire to observe them.

Do not bait wildlife – When people feed wild animals, they can disrupt the creatures' foraging or predatory cycles. Food that is not part of their regular diets can also cause physiological harm and changes in their natural behaviours, making them more susceptible to injury, hunting or predation.

Do not disturb nesting birds – People should not approach nests or handle eggs or young birds, particularly during breeding seasons. Many adult birds will abandon nests or roll eggs out of the nest if they perceive nearby humans as potential predators.

Do not stress wildlife – Animals disturbed or distracted by human activity can become more susceptible to injury, predators and malnutrition. Additionally, wild animals tend to avoid contact with humans and may not return to a location from which they were scared away.

Do not trespass on private property – Rules and property laws should always be respected.

Try not to scare wildlife away – Wild animals are sensitive, avoid human disturbance and may not return to a location where they were scared. Also, scaring wildlife away is rather annoying for other nature lovers who may come after you.

Do not share telltale locations of sensitive and vulnerable species – Rare wildlife and plants need to be protected from people who may poach, harass or otherwise disregard their need for an undisturbed existence.

Do not handle wildlife unless you have a license – Touching wild animals can contaminate them with chemicals in sunscreen, bug spray and other consumer products, and can transmit harmful viruses to the wildlife as well as expose people to zoonoses (infectious diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans).

Do not litter – Garbage can harm animals that eat it. It also mars natural habitats and encourages other people to be similarly careless in natural spaces. Litter should be picked up and discarded appropriately.

Do not crowd wildlife – Crowding animals stresses them and can increase poaching and predation. This is of particular concern for owls and rare species.

Stay on sanctioned trails – Remaining on designated trails helps to avoid damaging sensitive plants and natural features.

Be prepared – Binoculars, appropriate footwear and clothing, sunscreen, snacks, water and field guides make outdoor experiences more enjoyable.

Respect wildlife – Look for signs of stress to avoid disturbing wildlife from engaging in the natural behaviours they need to regulate their health and well-being.

Remove litter from trails – This discourages others from littering, improves the experience of other visitors and removes pollution that could harm wildlife.

Be patient – By simply taking their time, people will see and hear more.

Be quiet – Wildlife quickly becomes aware of human presence. Minimizing noise improves everyone's chances of seeing animals in their habitats.

Support environmental organizations – People can reinforce the work of organizations helping to protect wild species and spaces.