

THE VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER



**I hear you are
a photographer!*

Lois Lehman

MY PHOTOGRAPHY LIFE

John and I became PPC members 25+ years ago

Attended

- * Santa Fe Photography Workshops**
- * Rocky Mountain School of Photography**
- * Charlie Freeman Photo Classes**
- * Disney Institute Photo Classes**
- * Collin College Photo Class**
- * PPC Classes and Training**



Past Co-President of Plano Photography Club

Over 30+ years, we have been volunteer photographers for dozens of organizations

OBJECTIVES

**Give you the confidence to be
volunteer photographer**

Types of events

**Ask for Pre-Event Agenda
and Info**

Post-Production/Processing

PhotoShop

Lightroom

DxO Photo Lab

On1 Photo

Distribution of final images



PHOTOJOURNALIST ROBERT CAPA (1913-1954)

**“If your photographs aren't good enough,
you're not close enough.”**



EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING

FAMILY AND SCHOOL EVENTS

My daughter... This is our lovely
Granddaughter, Catharine... Continue Reading

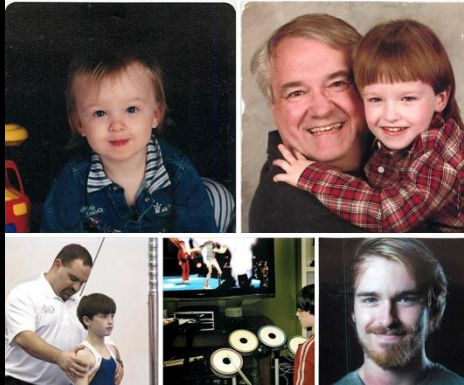


Lois Lehman
October 4, 2018 · 🧑🏻
Catharine Culver and The Colony High School Band (TCHS) at a band competition last Saturday. They made it to finals (top 10 bands).



Lois Lehman is with John Lehman and Raven McCarthy.
May 19, 2018 · 🧑🏻

Happy 20th Birthday to our grandson, Raven. We love you and are proud of your Parkour skills and coaching. Have a wonderful and joyous day.



Lois Lehman
June 17, 2013 · 🧑🏻

We had a great Father's Day with John. We had steaks, gifts, cards, and a wonderful game of Monopoly. John is a marvelous Dad and Grand-dad.



ADVANCE TO PHOTOS OF SPORTS, NON-PROFITS, & BUSINESSES

Professional Groups

**Non-Profits and Fund
Raisers**

Sports: Teams & Games

Architecture

Pets - Shelters

**Neighborhood, Religious,
Hospital, and Community
Functions**



Dallas County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) prepares volunteers to help during disasters. Following Hurricane Harvey, many citizens wanted to help at shelters and other venues, but could not because they were not prepared/credentialed as a disaster volunteer. ... See More



PUBLICITY SHOTS - NOT PHOTOJOURNALISM

PJ has restrictions: No posing of subjects and no major editing of the image

Publicity Shots produce photos that people - organizers are happy to place on social media or to print

OK to (you should) post process to create the best image

You may need to be briefly intrusive to get the best photos of awards, VIPs, winners, etc.



PACK LIGHT

**Lots of walking, comfy shoes,
drink plenty of water, and
dress for weather**

**Fuji Camera – X-T3 mirrorless
Favorite Lens: 18 mm to 135 mm**



Bring your Flash for Indoor and Outdoor events

Bring extra batteries, memory cards, cell phone (your backup camera), ID, lens, and money.

Most events are casual. Dress nicely as you represent the organization. If in doubt, wear all black.

#1 CHALLENGE

LACK OF CONTROL

**Photographer Does
Not Control**

Location - Time of Day

Weather - Agenda

Your lack of experience

Variety of Light: Indoors, outdoors, or both

Movement of people – ask about agenda

During quiet moments - stage some shots

But you are expected to make it work!



HOW MANY PHOTOGRAPHS

For a 2 - 4 hr event, I take **150 - 300** images

When I see a photo-op, I take a set of **5-10** images (flash AND no flash)

I chose the best image(s) of the set during post processing

I usually submit **60-90** final images

I only submit the photos **I** want seen

For large events, it is good to have a fellow photographer or two



SOME PHOTOGRAPHERS SUBMIT ALL THEIR IMAGES

I Don't Recommend This

**Organizers may not have time to
evaluate 200-300 images**

**They may not have good photo skills
to choose the best images**

**They may choose a photo that may
'embarrass' a subject**

**I don't want to see poor quality
images with my name on them**



MAKE YOUR IMAGES POP

Use Any Crop: Rectangle, Square, or Panoramic

Color Correct and Enhance

Crop, Clone, or Blur out Distracting Objects

Diminish White Distractions

Highlight Point of Interest - Vignette

DeNoise or Sharpen – Topaz Labs



WHO TO PHOTOGRAPH

Organizers/Officers of the Event

VIPs – Special Guests

Volunteers – Vendors - Sponsors

Attendees - Crowd

Kids

**Diversity - many
Cultures and Ages**

Signs

Get it All!



UP, DOWN, LEFT, & RIGHT WORK THE SUBJECT

**Old Statement: Amateur
will take 100 photos – a
professional will take
1,000**

Bend knees – shoot up

**Stand on stairs – aim
down**

**Step to the right – step to
the left**

**Shoot wide angle – shoot
telephoto**



KNOW YOUR FLASH

USE FILL FLASH

Auto flash does not always make wise decisions

Flash may be needed both indoors and outdoors

You need to take photos quickly – volunteers and staff are busy

Look around - keep you and other people safe

It is easier to 'fix' a flash photo than an underexposed photo



TO CORRECT PROBLEMS

This is an adequate flash image: Sharp, Habitat logo on helmet, company logo on lanyard.



BUT.....

Image and skin color is flat –

Clone out flash reflections in goggles

**Teeth and whites of eyes are dull –
Dodge (10% lighter)**

**Telephone poles are a distraction –
Clone out**

Trash on ground – crop/vignette



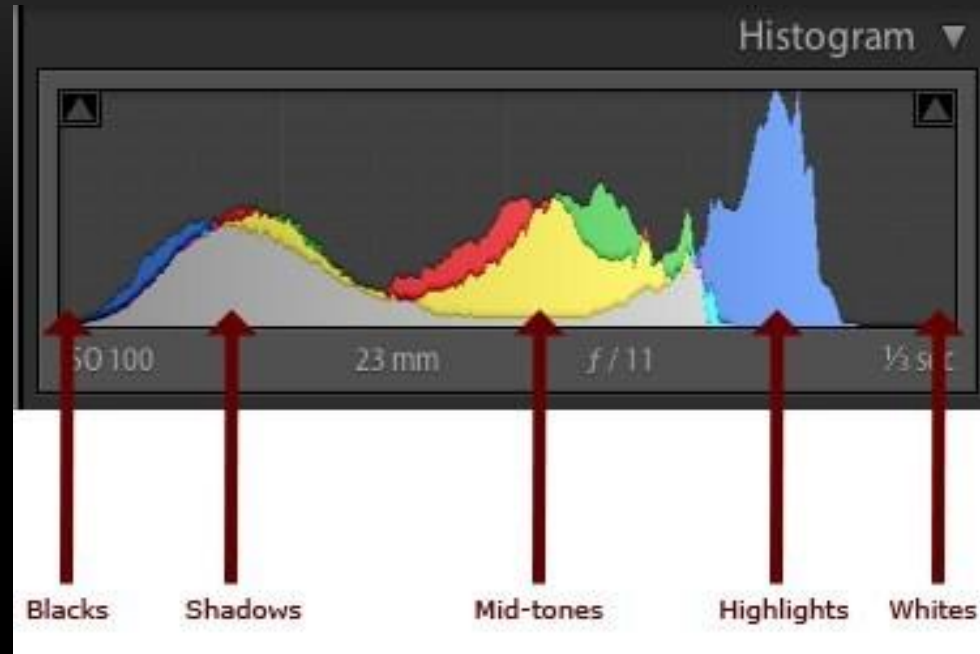
USE **BURST** MODE FOR ACTION SHOTS



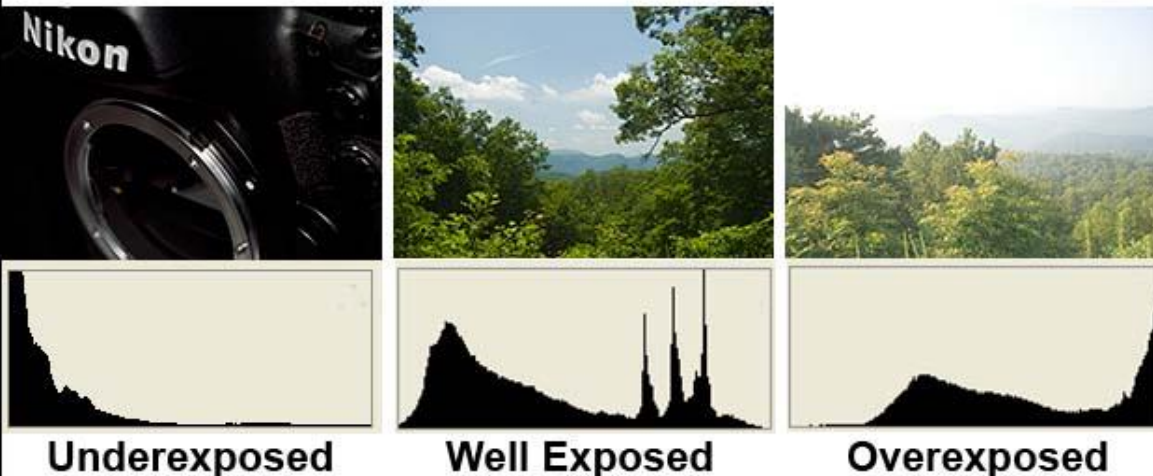
CHECK YOUR HISTOGRAM

Remember, you may not get a 2nd chance

Take occasional breaks to check photos and histograms



Histogram Basic Tutorial



POST PRODUCTION

Favorite Plug-ins

NIK Collection

Color Efex Nik 6

Silver Efex Nik 6

Analog Efex Nik 6

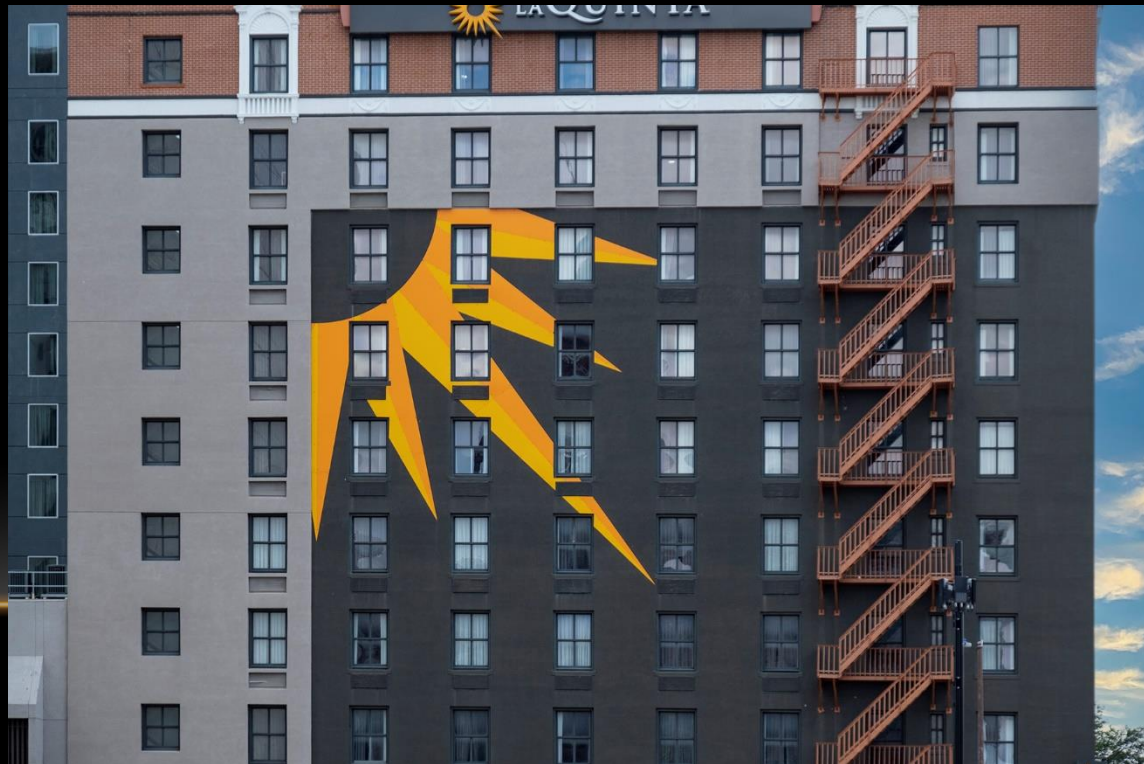
Perspective Efex

Sky Replacement
(PhotoShop Edit)

Topaz Labs

DeNoise

Sharpen



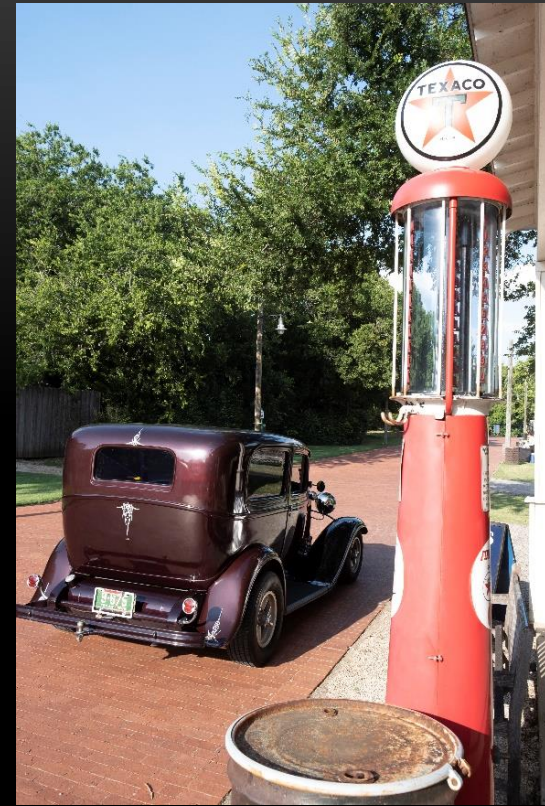
OK TO BE IMAGINATIVE

Colors are flat

**Wrong color for era
(1930s car)**

Sky is dull

**Also, street-lights
were removed**



TELL A STORY

Rules of Thirds - Leading Lines

Look for “impact”

Change to B/W or Sepia

Isolate Items



UNDEREXPOSED IMAGE

Corrections

In Raw: Increase exposure +150 to +200

Remove red mark below eye

Crop bowl

Darken floor and bowl

Use Topaz Labs to remove noise



PHOTOGRAPHER NAME TAG

Tag explains to others...

Why you are taking pictures of their children

Why you sometimes give directions

Why you may have special access

Where photos are going



Lois Lehman

March 18, 2018 · 2

After 8 months of planning, City of Dallas Police/Fire Rescue and 30 agencies held a Mass Casualty Incident Drill. Several hundred Dallas citizens volunteered to come to the Majestic Theater with 100 victims 'injured' when the stage 'collapsed'. Four area hospitals 'received' the victims.... [See More](#)



GO EARLY TO NEW LOCATIONS

Check weather

Evaluate sun glare and shadows

Look for cute backdrops

Know where you need to stand

Be ready to give ideas to people



AWARDS

“ONE OF THE HARDEST”

Prior: Meet with MC and Presenter

Plan location for Photos - Isolate

Look for a simple backgrounds

Instruct Presenter how to face camera
and show award

Try to be on Front Row



LABEL PHOTOS



DSCF1079.jpg (Camera Photo number)

Hard for organizers to know what and when of event.

LABEL EVERY IMAGE

Download and in Bridge - Batch Rename

1. **Your Name**
2. **Name of Organization and Event**
3. **Date**
4. **Photo Number**

After Post-Processing

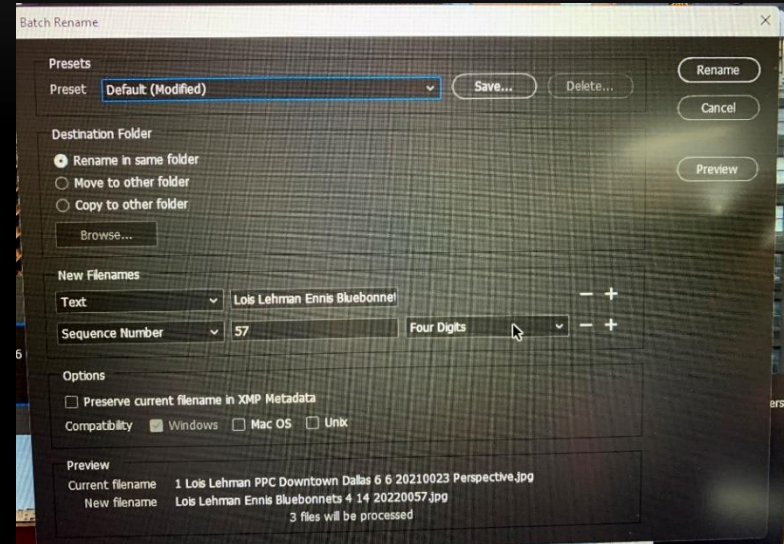
Do a Save As

Place an “A” or “1” before my name at full resolution (300)

If sending via social media, reduce resolution to 150

Do a Save As

Retitle with ‘150’ before my name



Keep your original image untouched!!



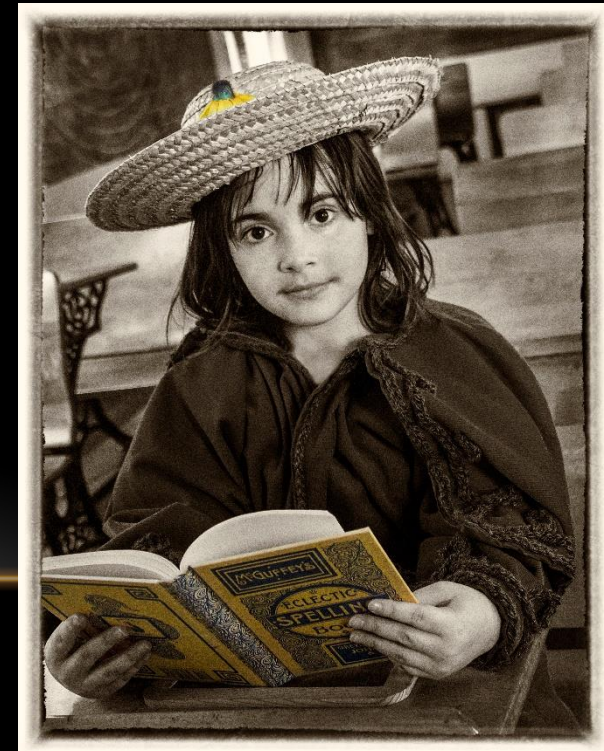
A Lois Lehman FBHP Mums and Sons 5 1 2022 002.jpg

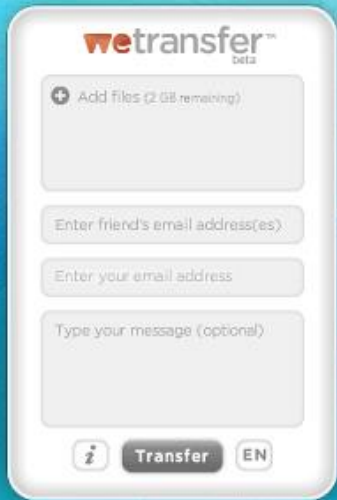
DISTRIBUTING IMAGES

Most organizations want **JPEG**

Find a system to transfer images at full (300) resolution. This makes them printable.

If using G-mail, after hitting send button, click on **“TURN LINK SHARING ON”**.





The easy way to send big files.

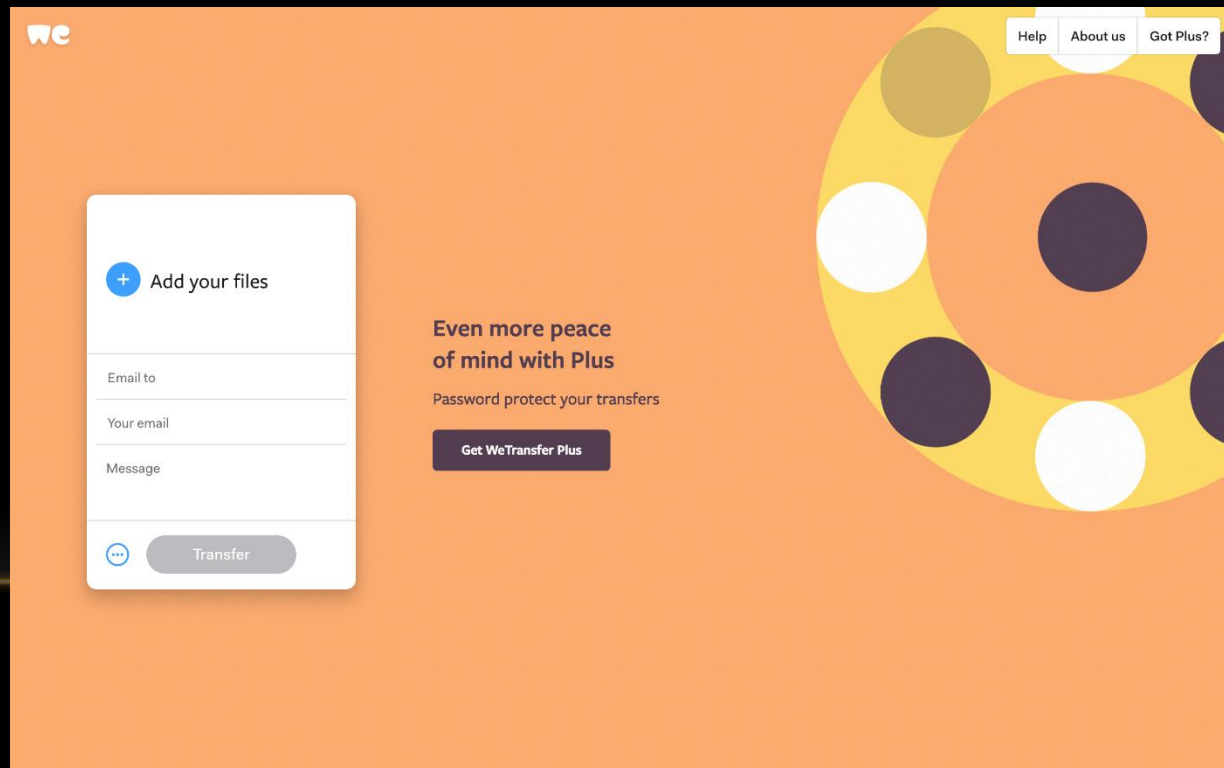
- It's free
- Send up to 2 GB
- No registration
- Simple & secure

WE TRANSFER @ WETRANSFER.COM

FREE for basic Package – OK to Send up to 2 GB

Recipient has 1 week to Download

Can send full resolution photos



RELEASE PHOTOS TO ORGANIZATION

**Some organizations may ask you to
sign a photo release form**

Or you may create your own

You can Google sample forms

**I send a simple sentence on We
Transfer or send the organization an
email**

**My Release: Baseball Grounders
may use, edit, print, and/or distribute
these images to promote their team.**



TO FIND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Call your favorite center: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Operation Kindness, North Texas Food Bank, Make-A-Wish, Habitat for Humanity, Dress for Success, In-Sync Exotics, Zoo, Soup Mobile, Schools, Theaters, Hospitals, etc.

Google: Volunteer Photographer in Dallas, Plano, etc.

GOOD NEWS – BAD NEWS

Most Organizations

Are well organized

Experienced

Know what they want

Greet you – give you an agenda

Staff is nice

Have knowledge of websites,
photography, downloading, etc.

SOME ARE NOT!!



FUZZY LEGAL ISSUES

**Photographer DOES have copyright
of their photographs**

BUT, who has access/shares your images?

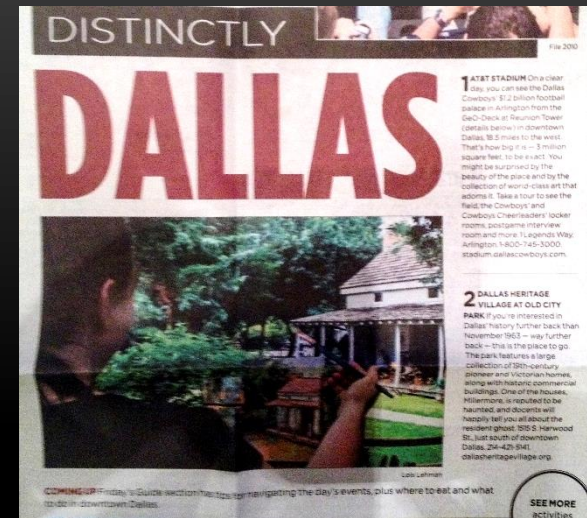
**Organizations may share your images with other
volunteers, vendors, sponsors, VIPs, or
attendees.**

**Attendees in public areas may be photographed,
but when asked, I will delete a photo.**

I RARELY get photo credit

**I do place some images on my Facebook or
Instagram – I tag the organization**

Also, I enter them in PPC competitions



***Dallas County Medical Reserves Corps holds
Closed POD Drill***

Today, Dallas County tested MRC's ability to dispense medical countermeasures to affected populations quickly and efficiently, which is crucial following a catastrophic public health event.



SUMMARY

Crop, clone, and/or vignette

Try to tell a story

Do not embarrass anybody or the organization

Buy, use, and experiment with Plug-Ins

Create sharp images - read histograms – use flash as needed

OK to interact with subjects - pose

Use wide angle and telephoto lens

Have a plan on how you will distribute your photos to organizers

December 2011

Candlelight

Candlelight, our most popular event, has become a part of holiday celebrations for many families. Candlelight's glowing pathways lead to holiday traditions of early Dallas, donkey-pulled carriage rides, community entertainers, St. Nicholas, food, and festive fun. Each year, we build partnerships with community groups to decorate the buildings, and financially support and staff the event.



Lois ↑



Lois ↑



Lois ↑

Our History

Dallas Heritage Village and the land



on which it sits has a long and rich connection with Dallas history. Site of many firsts, this piece of land became Dallas' first city park in 1876. At the time, it was simply called City Park. The Cedars, an elegant neighborhood, home of many business and mercantile leaders, grew up around City Park in the 1880s and 1890s. The city's first zoo was located here and weekly concerts were given in the

THE END

Thank You



Questions?

