

Capturing the Moment

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"Darn, I wish I had my camera!" I know I've said that many times. It's so easy to toss a small camera into either a shirt pocket, backpack or tackle box. However, with the widespread availability of cameras today, deciding on the right camera can often be confusing. There are two different types of cameras available for beginning and amateur photographers: the Lens-Shutter camera, the Single-Lens-Reflex camera. Both of these types of cameras have their strengths and weaknesses. Camera selection depends upon two factors: the type of photography you want to do and the amount of money you're willing to spend on camera equipment.



The Lens-Shutter camera also known as a "Point & Shoot" is the easiest to use. If you only plan to take pictures of your family or a hunting trip, this is the camera for you. Point & shoot cameras take care of just about everything for you from exposure to focusing to rewinding. They are lightweight enough to carry almost anywhere. Just place the camera in your shirt pocket, backpack or tackle box and you'll be ready to record that special moment. All you need to do is aim and press a button.

Single-Lens-Reflex camera, or SLR for short, is the standard camera for many photographers. They are much more powerful than a point and shoot camera and give you a lot more control over the way your image turns out. One of the main differences between and SLR and a point & shoot is that when you look through your viewfinder, you are looking through the actual lens of the camera and what you see is what you get. With the point & shoot, the viewfinder is separate from the lens and you what you see is approximately what you get. This can cause problems, especially with close up pictures. You also have the ability to change lenses, adjust aperture and shutter speed with the SLRs. This is essential for the serious photographer. This flexibility and control comes at a price. This simplest point & shoot cameras start around \$50, while a basic SLR camera and lens start around \$300. Make sure that if you spend the money an SLR camera, you are actually going to use the features you pay for. On the other hand, you just want to take good pictures, you might be better off with a point and shoot camera.

Don't overlook disposable cameras or the new digital cameras. A waterproof disposable camera might be the perfect companion to take along on a fishing or a kayaking trip. With the digital cameras, you do not have to worry about film or processing. You can also print out your own photos or email them to family and friends almost instantly.

Tips for Taking Better Photographs

1. To keep your camera steady, lean against a tree or solid object; sit down and brace your elbows on your legs; place your camera on a beanbag or crumpled up shirt to support your camera.
2. Roll you finger over the shutter release button. This is similar to squeezing the trigger of your gun. It increases the accuracy of your shot or in the case of a camera, creates a sharper images.
3. Be sure to look and see what objects might be directly behind your subject. You don't want any "trees" growing out of someone's head.
4. It's a good idea to not take photographs outdoors around noon on sunny days. The light is too harsh and colors will appear faded in your photographs.

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