



Tips for Photographing Holiday Lights

By Val Sleger

During the busy holiday season, you might not have time to read a long article, so I'll cut to the bullet points, excerpted from the article "Brilliant Tips for Better Christmas Light Background Photography." A link to the full article appears at the end of the page. You will also find a bonus: a map and addresses showing houses who have lit themselves up for the holidays. Enjoy!

1. Photograph around twilight or dusk
2. Act fast (light changes quickly!)
3. Use a tripod
4. Forget flash
5. Start with your ISO at around 400
6. Set your aperture for f/8
7. Try a white balance setting of Incandescent (some cameras call this Tungsten)
8. Slow down your shutter speed to reduce noise
9. Fill your frame
10. Increase shutter speed for **blinking** lights
11. If you don't like the of a white balance set to Incandescent (see #7), try Daylight. Don't like that either? Give Auto White Balance a try.
12. For indoor photos, brighten up the scene with lamps or other light sources
13. Use a shallow depth of field for a dreamy look
14. Try some shots with your aperture wide open (smallest f/number) for increased bokeh
15. Experiment with motion blur (2:45 on the timer in the video)

Sources: <https://www.picmonkey.com/blog/christmas-light-photography>

Video: [5 Tips for Shooting Holiday Lights](#) (6:25)

[Map of Homes with Holiday Lights \(Sierra Vista\)](#)



Photo Contests

Are you interested in having your work displayed in the hallowed halls of the Sierra Vista City Council chambers? How about showing off your photos from one of our beautiful state parks? Below is information about three opportunities to share your work with a larger audience. Good luck!

Opt Outside Photo Contest (Arizona State Parks System)

Details: <https://azstateparks.com/press/arizona-state-parks-and-trails-announces-the-opt-outside-photo-contest>

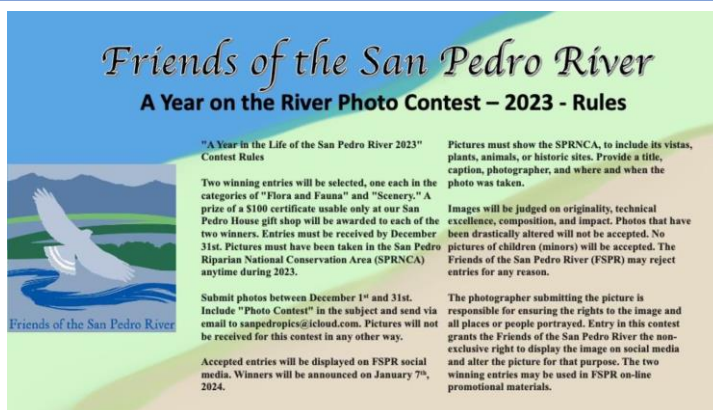


Announcing
A Year on the River Photo Contest - 2023

Submit your pictures of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) taken during 2023. Two winners will be selected, one each in the categories of "Scenery" and "Flora and Fauna." Each winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate at the San Pedro House gift shop. See contest rules for details.

Friends of the San Pedro River

Friends of the San Pedro River



Friends of the San Pedro River
A Year on the River Photo Contest - 2023 - Rules

"A Year in the Life of the San Pedro River 2023" Contest Rules

Two winning entries will be selected, one each in the categories of "Flora and Fauna" and "Scenery." A prize of a \$100 certificate usable only at our San Pedro House gift shop will be awarded to each of the two winners. Entries must be received by December 31st. Pictures must have been taken in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) anytime during 2023.

Submit photos between December 1st and 31st. Include "Photo Contest" in the subject and send via email to sanpedropics@icloud.com. Pictures will not be received for this contest in any other way.

Accepted entries will be displayed on FSPR social media. Winners will be announced on January 7th, 2024.

Pictures must show the SPRNCA, to include its vistas, plants, animals, or historic sites. Provide a title, caption, photographer, and where and when the photo was taken.

Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, and impact. Photos that have been drastically altered will not be accepted. No pictures of children (minors) will be accepted. The Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR) may reject entries for any reason.

The photographer submitting the picture is responsible for ensuring the rights to the image and all places or people portrayed. Entry in this contest grants the Friends of the San Pedro River the non-exclusive right to display the image on social media and alter the picture for that purpose. The two winning entries may be used in FSPR on-line promotional materials.

Friends of the San Pedro River

[Contest Facebook Page](#)

Don't have Facebook? When the sign in screen appears, click the X in the upper right corner of the pop-up and you can still view the details, even without a Facebook account.

City of Sierra Vista Photography Showcase

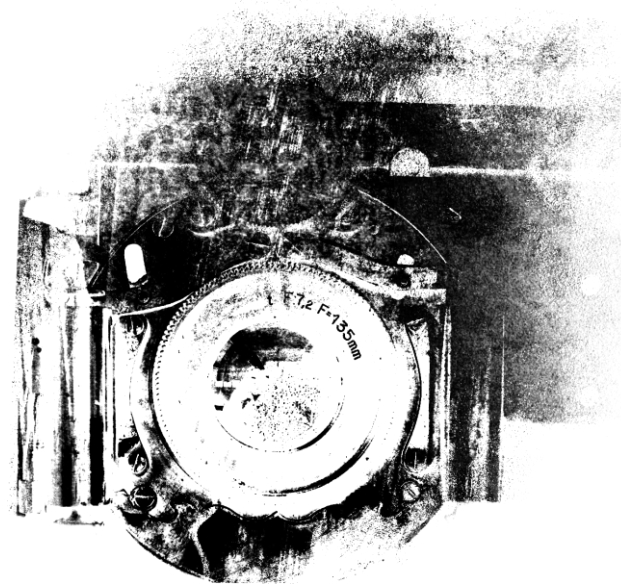
Here's a chance to have your work displayed in the City Council Chambers.

Details: <https://www.sierravistaaz.gov/Home/Components/News/News/368/15>

Links to resources from the November presentation "13 Camera Controls Photographers Should Know How to Use and Change"

[10 Controls \(PDF\)](#)

[How to Understand Your Camera Settings](#)



It's Challenge Time!

Each month, we're posting lists of terms to get you thinking about how you can make images that fit the themes posted. Some are straightforward, while others are more conceptual. Either way, having prompts can help you focus your photography and give you a reason to get out and shoot.

Please consider participating! It's a fun, no-stress way to keep up your photography skills and your eye for composition. Feel free to photograph one of each word, several of one word, or mix and match. We love seeing what everyone is working on! **Send your photos to:** azval.sleger@gmail.com. **Please submit no more than 10 photos.**

December

Holiday

White

Song: Silver Bells

Same subject, three apertures (Set up a small scene, or find a naturally-occurring scene. Stay the same distance from the scene and shoot the scene with three different aperture settings. Jot down the settings to submit with your photos.

January challenge words will be revealed at the December meeting.

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sierra Vista Police Station Training Room, 911 Coronado, Sierra Vista. Meetings begin at 4 PM. This month is our holiday potluck! Bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Cutlery and paper plates will be provided. We'll have member photo sharing, so bring a flash drive of images to share.

Officers

President: Mark Hanna

Vice-President & Program

Coordinator: Bob Luce

Secretary: Joyce Genske

Treasurer: Francie Hills

Have an idea for a meeting topic? Let one of the officers know!

Share your Internet Finds with Us!

In the market for some new, or new-to-you gear? Here are five reputable websites for researching and purchasing equipment.

B&H Photo: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

Adorama: <https://www.adorama.com/>

Nikon, Canon, Sony (visit the website of each)

BestBuy: <https://www.bestbuy.com/>

MPB: <https://www.mpb.com/en-us> Good place for quality used equipment. They also buy cameras, lenses, and accessories

Digital Photography Review <https://www.dpreview.com/>

Articles, reviews and forums for all things photography





Member Photos

We love to see your photos – even if you aren't looking for challenge words.
We showcase them in the newsletter, and you are encouraged to bring
them to the meeting on a flash drive!

Joyce Genske sent in these photos.



Fall in Ramsey Canyon



December Challenge word:
Holiday

Joyce Genske sent in these photos.



December
Challenge Word:
Holiday



December Challenge word:
Holiday Magic