



Making the Character Connection with...

Photography

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of CharacterSM every day. In the Photography project you will learn about the technology behind cameras, new and old, and learn how to set up and take beautiful pictures. It may seem like your photographs don't have much to do with being a person of character but take a moment to think of some ways it might relate. Show someone you care by sharing your photographs with them or capture important family events in a photo story for your family to enjoy for years to come. You may want to show your skills by teaching others about photography (Caring and Responsibility). If you enter your photographs in an art show or your local fair, you should understand the rules and be willing to accept the judges' rulings (Fairness). All of these situations give you a way to show you are a person of character; it's up to you to make sure you are following the Six Pillars of Character and displaying behaviors of a person of character.

This Character Connection contains:

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to your Photography project.**
- **Activities on how you can demonstrate good character while practicing your Photography skills.**
- **Questions to help you think of ways to demonstrate good character every day.**

Character Connection: Photography

Trustworthiness	Respect	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Tell the truth; never say you took photographs if you didn't. ✓Keep your promises. ✓Be dependable; make sure people can count on you to be there each time! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Be accountable to your project group, leader and self. ✓Set an example for future photographers that would make you and your parents proud. ✓Put in your best effort - do work you are proud of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Be forgiving - Pictures won't always come out the way you want, but don't take it out on your subjects. ✓Understand when plans change. ✓Allow subjects to choose their own poses and themes.
Fairness	Caring	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Show respect for the subjects of your photographs - don't make them do anything you wouldn't do. ✓Don't judge the work of other photographers. ✓Be tolerant of subjects and situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Accept judges' decisions at art shows and fairs. ✓Let others practice at the same position, lighting and setting as you have. ✓Help others learn; it doesn't always have to be competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Volunteer to take pictures for someone who may not have a photograph of themselves. ✓Share patriotic photos at a local event. ✓Learn about photo-journalism and how photographs are an important part of world news

Character Connection: Photography

Activity: Patriotic Pictures

DO:

Take the skills you have learned about distance, color and composition and take a series of patriotic pictures. These pictures can be pictures of flags, American heroes, people volunteering or anything you think your community would see as patriotic. Try using your different techniques so each of your pictures is unique. Take these photographs to a local VFW Hall or hospital and share them with someone who has served their country. It is important to spend time giving back to those who have given so much to us. Show these people that you honor and respect what they have done for you by sharing part of your project with them. Talk with some of these people about what it was like to take your pictures. Ask them questions about how it felt to serve their country and what it is like for them today. Maybe they can give you some ideas on things they consider patriotic that might make great pictures.

Do this as a project group by assigning each member one specific patriotic theme. Maybe one person will take 5 pictures of flags while another person will photograph only monuments. This will give you each the chance to focus your photography skills and learn about using your different techniques on the same type of object.

REFLECT:

1. Have you ever thought about the people who give service to their country?
2. How did it make you feel to be able to share with others your photographs and experiences in taking them?
3. Can you think of another time you have shared personal experiences with someone else? How does it make you feel to hear others' personal experiences?

APPLY:

Giving back to your community and those who serve your community helps others see your commitment to respecting others and being a good citizen. By focusing on patriotic pictures you could show respect for Veterans, but there are many other things you could chose to photograph and share. The important thing is to think of someone that you would like to honor and find a way to show them you are thinking of them. Photography is a great way to do that. Next time you want to show respect for someone take a photograph for them and share your experiences with them.



Character Connection: Photography

Activity: Family Photos

DO:

Now that you know the ins and outs of photography, you can use your skills to help others capture important moments in their lives. Offer your photographic skills to a member of your family. Volunteer to take photographs for an important event or something they wouldn't have thought of photographing on their own. Make sure you capture all of the important events and some moments that are funny, serious and unpredictable. By showing you have paid attention to details such as preserving their memories you can demonstrate that you are a caring person with their best interest in mind. Being a caring individual means allowing them to choose the event that you photograph and taking the pictures that they feel will best help them capture the memories. Remember to help them journal about the event, adding in your comments about what it was like to watch, what the day was like and how the person appeared to feel. In the future it will be very special that they have such a complete picture of their special day.

REFLECT:

1. What other types of volunteering have you done?
2. How do you think it made your family member feel when you volunteered to capture their day for them? How did their response make you feel?
3. Can you think of other ways you could help your family or community with your photography skills?
4. How did it make you feel to talk to your family member about spending a special day with them?

APPLY:

Showing someone you care about them isn't always about large gestures. By helping your family member capture an important moment, you are able to show that you care about their memories and enjoyment of an event. At the same time you improve your photography skills. Think about other ways you can share things with people in a caring way. Maybe you can share time, talents or thoughts with others. Next time someone has a special day, offer a hand in making it just a little more special for them. They will see how caring you are and you will feel great that you were able to help.

Expand on this Activity: Set up a family photo session just like in a photography studio. Set up the poses and take formal family photographs. Take the time to sit down with your family and journal about the year the photo was taken. How old was everyone? What kinds of things did you like to do as a family? What movies, games and sports teams were most popular? In years to come you'll be amazed at how different things will be. Make a family scrapbook of all your family photos from each year.

