

Fall Colors Field Trip at Lake Tahoe – October 2015
Tips for the October 16 Fall Colors Field Trip

**** Do your photography technical research before we leave! Read the handout articles, do research online, read books or anything else you need to do before the trip. Recheck all your camera and accessory equipment while you are packing.**

1. **Lenses** = telephoto, wide angle, macro. The ones you leave at home are what you will want!
2. **Polarizing lens filters** for color saturation, rivers and lakes and required for the Kokanee salmon which are in a stream that may have glare from the sun. UV & Gradient filters also useful.
3. **Lens hoods** to avoid glare and sunspots.
4. **Shoulder bag** to carry extra lenses, back up camera, accessories, etc. (Note to men, it's not a purse, so it's O.K. as long as you have your camera!)
5. **Tripod and/or monopod** = always on the list; required to help get crystal sharp images! Also consider using remote shutter release or timer to minimize hand shake. Take your time and set up a tripod for a smarter way to shoot some "trophy keepers". You want to get about a dozen "keepers" from shooting hundreds, so take your time and set up right. This is a quality game, not a numbers or quantity game. It's not how many but the quality of a few that make the trip a great success!
Field Tip = Scout out the photo op area first, chose your subject or view, then mount your camera on the tripod. If you set up the tripod first, then you tend to just stay "anchored" in that area, potentially missing a better op.
6. **Sun.** Carefully consider the position of the Sun to your subject. Backlighting the aspen trees can be great but watch out for glare, sun spots and exposure problems.
7. **Footing.** Watch where you are walking; this is a rugged mountain area.
8. **Camera settings.** **Re-check all your settings** when you are on site and ready to shoot. Many great opportunities have been ruined because your pre-settings have been changed by the "bad elf" between when you leave home and taking your first pictures. Make a "field card" or field checklist for all important settings you prefer such as manual, automatic, landscape, macro, stabilization, ISO, RAW, saturation, image size, memory card in the camera, etc.
9. **Use grid lines in your viewfinder.** Compose your photos as level as possible.
10. **HDR or High Dynamic Range.** Now is the time and place to experiment with HDR if your camera has this capability. These Lake Tahoe areas are featured prominently in HDR classes and "how to" articles.
11. **Clean your lenses often.** We are outdoors in dusty & breezy areas, check your lenses often.

12. **Camera Review function.** Use your camera's review function often, especially when you are shooting in a world class setting like on this trip. It's far better to adjust camera & lens settings on the spot and take better pictures in the field than waiting to get back home and agonizing about a lost opportunity.
13. **Weather.** Blue skies, overcast, clouds, rain or snow can be photographic obstacles or opportunities. Pick either of these attributes to match your individual personality.
14. **Security.** Don't leave your expensive equipment and valuables in plain view in the car while you are out of sight. Secure them in the trunk or cover them up. Once at the destination stop, it may be too late to put them away! Lock them in the car or bring them with you to lunch, etc.
15. **Group etiquette.** We are free to spend as much time as we want individually to take some world class pictures. We will have a lot of fun as a group, but you are free to eat when you want, go where you want, etc. but if you are traveling with others in the same car, consider their time as well. Feel free to go on and do whatever you want but please let others know if you had pre-planned a meal, carpool, or meeting together and will not be on time (refer to the cell phone list if necessary). This will help prevent irritating others and calling out the Search & Rescue dog teams.
16. **Car caravanning.** **We are not tethered to one another on this trip.** One thing we have learned over the years of going on group field trips: photographers are like cats – very independent, don't like to be controlled or herded, will lash out if disturbed from their day dreams, are on their own internal schedules, etc. Thus we don't even try to car caravan as a large group. We will try to be together but it is more important for you to have as much time as you want to take pictures. Others who are Type A can charge ahead without feeling restrained by a free spirit who has wandered off and is lost in the wonder of nature. Refer to the Agenda and maps for places to meet and regroup by this is totally up to each individual.
17. **Pack and be ready.** Make certain you are fully outfitted and packed before leaving on this trip. There are limited places to shop and we will not have much time to stop and pick up a few things on the way. There are no Costco's or Wal-Mart's in the mountains.
18. **Other suggestions:**