

Flagpole Photographers Newtown Workshop

April 22, 2017

All day	Ask lots of questions, really!
8:45	Meet at The Pleasance in Newtown
9:00	While taking photos, focus on fundamentals, holding camera steady, composition, moving for different angles/different heights/different distances
9:30	Learn about changing how much of the scene should and can be in focus, and how this changes composition options
10:00	Break and drive 2 miles to downtown Sandy Hook, 7 Glen Rd, Sandy Hook, CT
10:30	Learn about capturing motion, freezing motion, blurring motion, whatever is appropriate for the scene
11:00	Treasure Hunt! Combine creativity, composition, focus depth and motion to create better photos
Noon	Lunch on your own in Sandy Hook area. Take photos of your food and surroundings. At lunch review your photos and choose 3 to share. If you want, bring your lunch to the senior center
1:00	Drive 0.5 miles to Newtown Senior Center, 14 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT (map below) and move indoors. Share 3 photos and then watch and learn while they are reviewed and edited
2:30	Finished



Newtown Senior Center

14 Riverside Road

Village Perk Cafe

Sandy Hook

184 Exit 10

9 min
2.4 miles

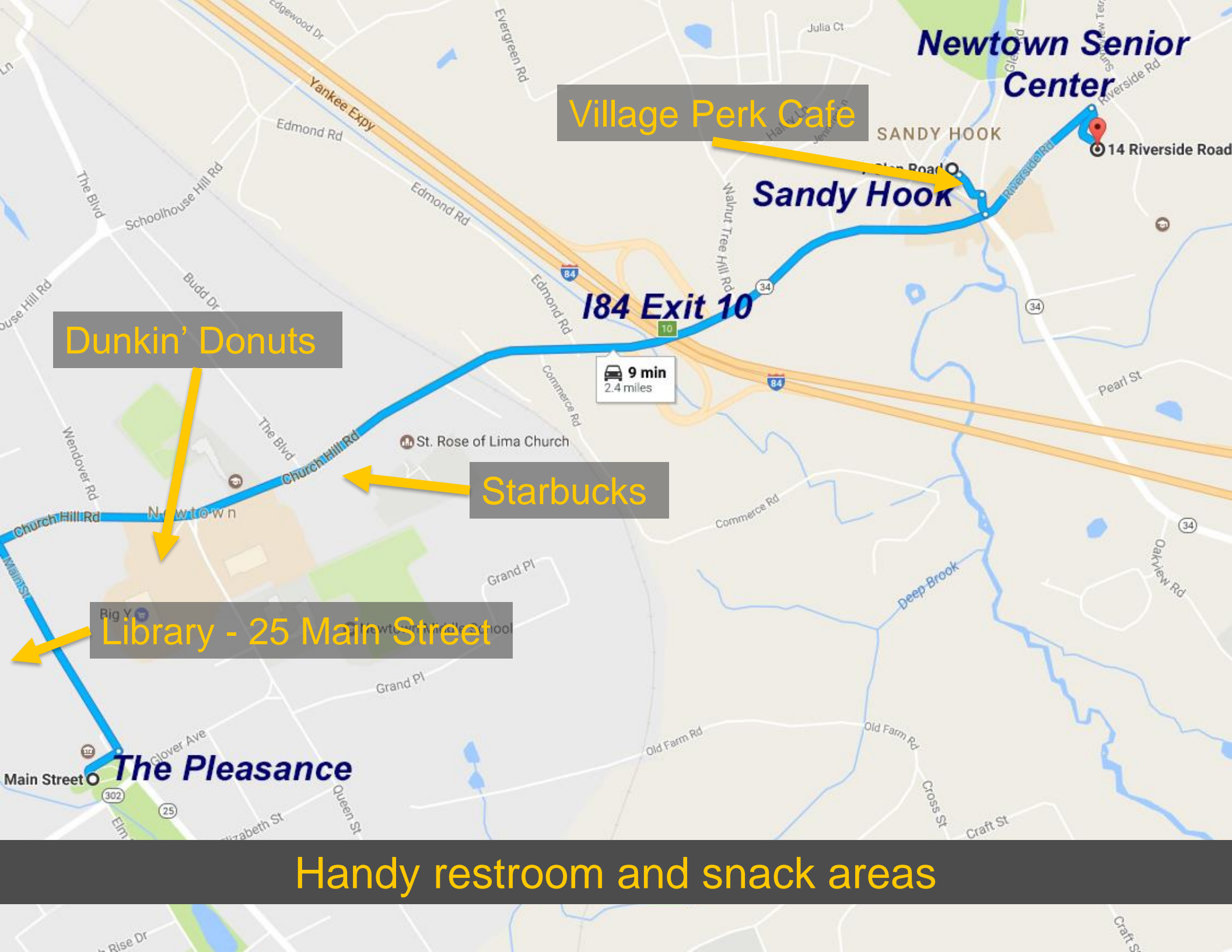
Starbucks

Dunkin' Donuts

Library - 25 Main Street

The Pleasance

Handy restroom and snack areas



Steady camera = Sharper photos

It's not rocket science - stable body, many points of contact



Hands on Activity

1. Practice many points of contact
2. Rotate camera
3. Gently squeeze shutter

How to hold a camera

It's worth taking a few minutes to practise holding your camera before you start shooting – you'll get sharper shots



FINGER

The camera body is designed to be gripped with your right hand and your index finger over the shutter release. You should be able to press the button without having to reposition your grip.

HAND

Rest your lens in your left hand. You should be able to twist the barrel of the lens to zoom or focus with this hand, leaving your right hand to grip the camera body.

ELBOWS

Tuck your elbows into your body to keep your camera sturdy. The further out your elbows are, the more unstable you will be.

EYEBROW CONTACT

Lift the camera up to your eye and rest the viewfinder against your eyebrow. This makes another point of contact on the body for more stability.



PORTRAIT

If you need to switch your camera to a portrait orientation then turn it over so the shutter release sits at the top. If you do it the other way around your arms will become all twisted up!



LEGS

Place your legs a little apart so you're balanced. If you're leaning in to take a shot then move one foot forward to create a sturdier body shape.

TAKE A MAT

When kneeling to take shots outdoors, you might get a wet or dirty knee. Take a mat or a plastic bag to place under your knee for comfort and to avoid ruining your clothes.



BACK PANEL CONTROL

With your hands in the correct position, your thumb is well placed to access the controls on the back of the camera to alter the shooting settings.



BRING ONE LEG UP

By coming down into a crouching position and bringing your leg up you can turn your body into a human tripod. Place your elbow on your knee to connect your leg and arm together, creating a braced position so you don't wobble around.



REST ELBOWS

If you have a surface area in front of you, lean your elbows onto it to steady yourself. Look for level surfaces, such as a table or wall.



CONTROL YOUR BREATHING

Breathe out when you take a shot. If you hold your breath or breathe in, you'll find you move around a lot more. It's amazing how much of a difference controlling your breathing can make.



LEAN IN

Leaning against a wall creates instant support for your camera. This can be useful when shooting at slow shutter speeds without a tripod.

Making use of Auto and Semi-Auto Modes

Camera modes are used to coach your camera to create the photo you want

The Benefits of Shooting in Auto Mode

A - Auto - camera chooses everything

- Using full **Auto** mode, green, will usually guarantee a perfect exposure, but not necessarily a perfect image.
- Helps avoid missing a perfect photo opportunity while fiddling with settings
- Often, it just works. The brain in your camera is really smart
- Many winning photos are taken on **Auto**

The Benefits of Shooting in Scene Auto Mode

Portrait - blurs the background to make the subject stand out

Landscape - everything in focus from near to far

Close-up - make small things appear large, may need a macro lens

Sports - for a moving subject, such as a runner person on moving car

Night Portrait - fire flash to help portrait and keep natural-looking night background

Others ... - try them ...

Other modes

P - Program - like Auto, except the flash doesn't pop-up

S or Tv - Shutter Speed - how long to open the shutter, to freeze or blur motion

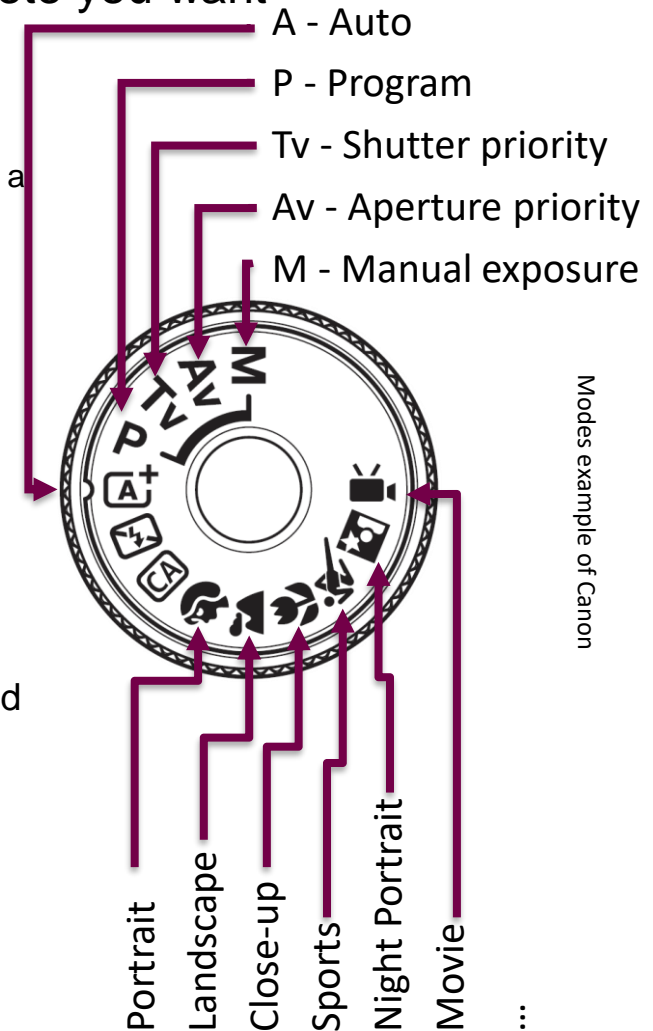
Av - Aperture - how much of the scene should be in focus

M - Manual - when you need to control both Aperture and Shutter

How to learn from Auto Modes

Select a mode, shoot a photo, then review the how your camera responded

Hints - Portrait uses a small Aperture value, Landscape uses a large Aperture value, Sports uses a large Shutter speed [fraction], Night Portrait uses a small Shutter speed plus a flash



Modes example of Canon

Hands on Activity
1. Use Auto mode
2. Now switch to Sports mode
3. Now back to Auto mode



Photography - recording light in a dynamic world

Learning to leverage light is a lifetime experience

Natural Light

Constantly changing by the time of day and the clouds in the sky

Artificial Light

A flash is an amazing tool that has its own set of rules to learn

Thinking Activity

1. What sees better our eyes or the camera?
2. Diffused vs Direct sun?



Light to cast a shadow



Light to highlight a face



Light to define a mood or tell a story



Gathering light to see in the dark

Rule of thumb - start with the light on your back, then keep moving to evaluate other viewpoints

Consider

Where is the light coming from in relation to your scene and to your camera?

How strong is the light? Is it diffused (sun behind a cloud), are there many sources (multiple windows)

What color is the light? Is it golden hour (shortly after sunrise and before sunset), blue hour (twilight)

Is there a way to change the light? Wait, change the scene, move to a new location, use a flash ...

What camera settings do I use?



Perspective - A Point of View

Experiment with getting off of the usual eye level. Look beyond the obvious.

Get down low, look up



Take the high road, look down



Look behind you



Hands on Activity

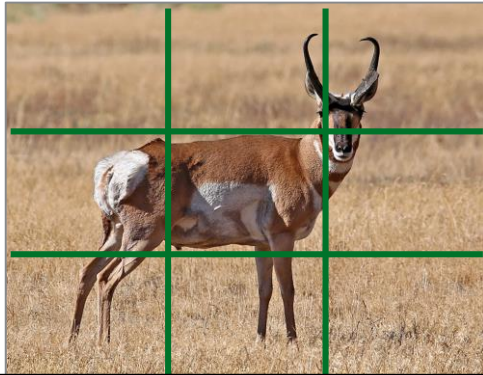
1. Take a photo of something on the ground near you.
2. Take a photo of a tree.



Composition - making photos appealing

Hands on Activity

1. Quickly take a photo using Rule of Thirds
2. Review it on your camera



Rule of Thirds
Place the most interesting item on the lines or intersection



The track leads your eye to the train

Leading Lines
Use a line to lead the viewer to the most interesting item



Rule of Odds
For visual balance and harmony use 1, 3 or 5 items



Space for the hawk to move into

Leaving Space
Breathing room and implied motion

Composition - a few more ideas



Depth

Adding 3D by having items in foreground and background



Hands on Activity

1. Rotate and take a portrait photo
2. Take again with Simplification

Orientation

When the scene has many vertical lines rotate your camera



Fill the Frame

Break the “Leave Space” rule to increase drama



Simplification

Eliminate distracting elements to clarify your core object

Tips for sharp action shots

Rule of thumb: large shutter speed number, small aperture number

Shutter?

Think of it like a human blinking, how long the camera sensor is exposed to light

What is the difference between a shutter speed of “1/500th of a second” and “500”

Generally, nothing, simply a shorter way to say it

Your camera settings need optimized for fast moving items beyond setting the shutter speed

1. Use the “sports” scene mode on most cameras

2. Or, use Shutter Speed mode settings like:

- Select a **speed** of at least 1/500 second for human sports like track, football, soccer ...
- Select high speed **continuous shooting** setting to take several photos while holding down the shutter button
- Select a **focus mode that tracks** a moving subject to keep action in focus: Canon “AI Servo”, Nikon “AF-C”

Photo Credit: Rhonda Cullens & Chane Cullens

The copyrights for photographs appearing on this presentation are owned by the photographer. And as such, the photographs may not be used for any purpose without the express written consent of the copyright owner.

Hands on Activity

1. Switch to sports mode and hold the shutter button for 2 seconds
2. Freeze a moving car or running water
3. Blur just the water in flowing water
4. While moving take a photo of a building sign



4 seconds for silky waterfall

1/640 to freeze the horse's mane



Speed Cheat Sheet - Try

Birds in flight	1/2000
Trains, autos, bikes	1/1000
Runners, soccer, horses	1/500
Walkers	1/250
Landscapes	1/125
Waterfalls	1 second
Fireworks	5 seconds



Treasure Hunt - photograph any 7 of these 17 items

Over the next hour your challenge is to find, then create great photos

Search for these

1. Rust
2. Lamp
3. Motorcycle
4. Bridge
5. Water
6. Church
7. Sign
8. Flag
9. Food
10. Peeling paint
11. Yellow
12. Brick
13. Stairs
14. Railing
15. Car
16. Wine bottle
17. Person

While practicing technique

- *Light - where is the sun*
- *Perspective - change it up*
- *Rule of thirds*
- *Leading lines*
- *Fill the frame*
- *Simplify*
- *Create depth*
- *Avoid distracting backgrounds*
- *Break the rules*





Figs Wood Fired Bistro
Thin-crust pizzas &
New American fare
9 min drive - home

Home Instead
Senior Care

Smokey Mountain Chew

GCS Computer

SUBWAY® Restaurants
Build-your-own
sandwich chain

Sandy Hook Diner

Sandy Hook Deli & Catering

Sandy Hook Hair

Nick's Chilled & Distilled

Sabrina Style

Sandy Hook Bicycles

PJ's Laundromat

Nouveau Monde
Wine Bar + Bistro

Foundry
Charming American
choice with a deck

Rockwell Lynda

**The Villa
Restaurant & Pizza**

United
Church

Wesley Learning Center

Lunch ideas in downtown Sandy Hook

Why care about all this “Mode” stuff?

Photography is all about recording light in an everchanging environment

Camera modes are used to coach your camera to create the photo you want

For example

Sports

- Freeze action by opening and closing the shutter very fast - issue - less light available to record

Landscape

- Everything in focus by using a pinhole aperture setting - issue - less light available to record

Result

- You often can't freeze action and have everything in focus

Workaround

Crank up the volume on the camera electronics sensitivity, when you go too high the fidelity of the photo suffers and everything is grainy

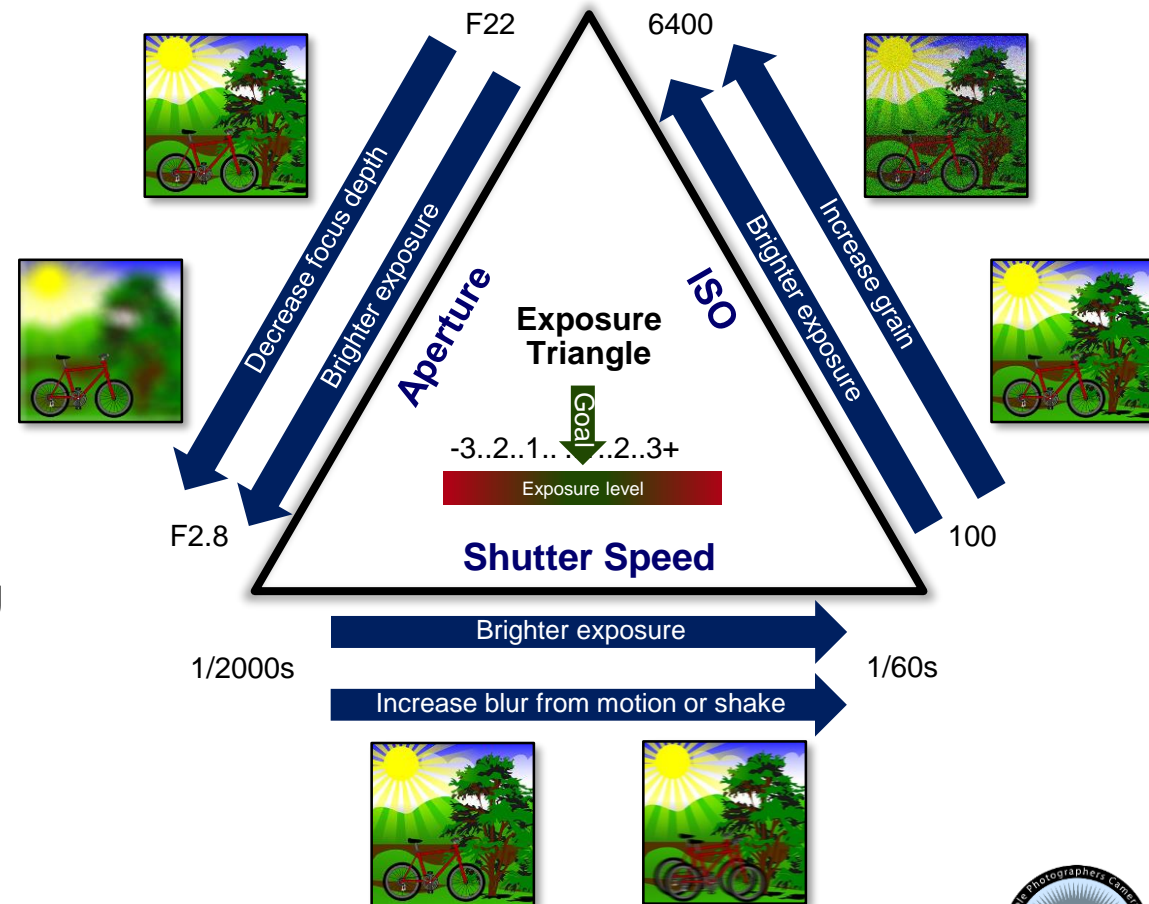
Scene Auto Mode

Best tradeoffs from the manufacturer that knows the exact capabilities of your camera

Sports Mode - larger Shutter number emphasized

Landscape Mode - larger Aperture number emphasized

Portrait Mode - smaller Aperture number emphasized



The Pleasance in Newtown, 1 Main Street, Newtown CT



Parking

Meet here at 8:45 am



7 Glen Rd, Sandy Hook, CT

Parking

Meet here at 10:30 am



Newtown Senior Center, 14 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT



Parking

Meet here at 1:00 pm