



Portrait Photography Guidelines

Thank you for choosing the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden for your photography session. Please review these guidelines in advance and share them with your photographer and everyone participating in your session.

Your Reservation

Portrait photography reservations are available during regular Garden hours as availability allows. Walk-in photography sessions are not permitted.

Up to 5 photography subjects | \$175

6–15 photography subjects | \$225

Your reservation includes:

- One hour of photography
- Garden admission for all photography subjects
- One photographer, who does not count toward the group-size limit

Payment is required in advance to confirm your reservation.

Arrive on Time

Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before your scheduled reservation. Your photography session must conclude by the end of your reserved time, even if you arrive late.

Keep the Garden Accessible

The Garden remains open to visitors during photography reservations. Please keep pathways and Garden spaces accessible and be mindful of other guests. Photography reservations do not provide exclusive access to any area of the Garden.

Protect the Garden

Photographers and photography subjects must remain on designated paths and may not enter or disturb plant beds, displays or water features. Please do not climb, sit or place items on artwork, structures or other Garden features unless specifically intended for visitor use.

Keep Equipment Simple

Tripods, lighting equipment and reflectors are not permitted. Monopods may be used outdoors when they do not interfere with visitor access.

A photographer is not provided by the Garden.

Leave Props and Pets at Home

Props are not permitted for portrait photography sessions. This includes items such as chairs, luggage, baskets, signs, balloons and cakes.

Only trained service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are permitted.

Arrive Photo Ready

Please arrive dressed and ready for your session. Garden restrooms may not be used for outfit changes.

Be Mindful

Photography should be appropriate for a public garden setting and may not interfere with the experience of other visitors.

Photographers and photography subjects are responsible for any damage to Garden property. The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal property.