

Photography & Videography at the U.S. National Arboretum

National Arboretum guests are welcome to take photographs throughout the public areas of the Arboretum. All special occasion, portrait, and commercial photography requires a permit, and fees may apply.

Permits are required for the following situations:

- » The primary purpose of your visit is to photograph your family or group
- » The subjects or models are wearing formal or wedding attire or costumes
- » A photographer or videographer, whether professional or hobbyist, is taking the photographs or video
- » Props of any kind are included in the photographs

No walk-up requests are granted. No unauthorized photography sessions are allowed at any time on Arboretum property. Individuals found in violation of these policies may be subject to removal.

Portrait or Special Occasion Photography and Videography

Portrait and special occasion photography and videography (such as that for weddings, engagements, maternity, birthdays, holidays, and the like) require a permit and a fee. Photography and videography may be arranged throughout the Arboretum, including the National Capitol Columns. A photography or videography permit does not allow for related services, parties, or receptions without prior approval.

Promotional or Commercial Photography and Videography

Photographers and videographers for promotional or commercial photo and video shoots (for inclusion in a book, magazine, catalog, model portfolio, TV commercial, motion picture, etc.) are charged a location fee and must apply for a permit in advance. The National Arboretum cannot endorse or be made to appear to endorse a product or political view.

Scheduling a Photo or Video Shoot

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Sessions must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. No photography or videography permits are issued for Saturdays.

Photography permits are available for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Additional restrictions apply to sessions in the National Herb Garden, which is only available after 3 p.m. on weekdays.

Videography permits, which may or may not include photography, are only issued for after-hours sessions after 5 p.m. and incure an additional security fee.



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Photography & Videography Policies & Instructions

REQUEST FOR PERMITS: Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests for photography and videography permits must include the completed application and be submitted via email to <u>Photography.USNA@usda.gov</u> at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the desired date.

PERMIT SCHEDULE: Photography permits are issued for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; additional restrictions apply to sessions in the National Herb Garden, which is only available after 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. After-hours sessions may be available but incure an additional security fee. Videography permits, which may or may not include photography, are only issued for after-hours sessions beginning after 5 p.m. and always incure an additional security fee. **No permits of any kind are issued for Saturdays.**

PAYMENT: Payments are processed via credit card and must be received before a permit is issued.

PROPS: Balloons, burning candles, spreading of flower parts, and the placement of large furniture is not permitted. Costumes and other small props are permitted within reason if they are not harmful to the natural resources of the National Arboretum. Props must be approved in advance of your session. Please provide full details about what you would like to bring in your application.

DRONES: Drones are not permitted. Washington, D.C. is governed by a Special Flight Rules Area, whch prohibits flying an unmanned aircraft without specific authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration.

DAMAGES: Care must be given to ensure that plant materials, grounds, or facilities are not damaged in any way. Full restitution for any damage caused is required. The Arboretum is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property. Please do not leave valuables in your car.

PLANT MATERIAL: Digging or planting of any plant material on the grounds is strictly prohibited. Absolutely no cutting of any Arboretum plant material is permitted. Nothing is to be trimmed for any reason whatsoever. Equipment may not be set up within garden beds without advanced approval from the Arboretum. Plant tags are not to be removed for any reason.

REFUSE: The photographer/videographer is responsible for removing any refuse generated.

CANCELLATIONS: The Director of the U.S. National Arboretum reserves the right to cancel any reservation at their sole discretion. In such cases, all fees for the canceled session will be fully refunded.

AFTER-HOURS SESSION CANCELLATIONS: Applicants scheduled for after-hours sessions who need to cancel their reservation must contact Arboretum security at the phone number listed on their permit no less than four (4) hours prior to the scheduled session. Failure to do so will incur an additional security fee of \$180.00 to reschedule the session.



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Photography & Videography Policies & Instructions, continued

PARKING: Parking is allowed only in designated areas. All roads must always be kept open for vehicle traffic. Park only on paved roads as far to the right edge of the road as possible but remain off the grass. Trailers with steps must park so that the steps face away from the roadway. All vehicles and equipment must be kept off the lawn and planted areas.

VISITORS: Visitors to the grounds cannot be prevented from accessing an area being used for photography or videography. They may be politely asked not to approach during filming or shooting, but once the shot has been completed the visitors may preceed. No public area may be closed to visitor access.

DRESSING ROOMS: Changing rooms are not available. Limited restroom facilities are available but are not designed to handle changing activities. Use by the public of these facilities may be restricted.

NUDITY: Under no circumstances will nude or scantily clad persons be permitted on the grounds of the Arboretum.

ALCOHOL: Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the grounds, and observation of the presence of such in possession of anyone affiliated with the photography or videography session will result in cancellation of the shoot without any refunds.

PHOTO CREDIT: Proper photo credit must be awarded to the U.S. National Arboretum.

NON-COMPLIANCE: Individuals found out of compliance with any of these policies may have their current session canceled and be denied future filming or photography privileges.





Photography & Videography Fee Schedule

All fees must be paid at least 14 days in advance of your requested date. No session will be reserved before payment is received. All fees are payable by credit card only.

All sessions reserved outside of normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) incur an additional \$180.00 after-hours security fee, which is added to the total session fee.

Session Duration	Base Session Fee	Administrative Fee*	Total Session Fee
1 hour	\$75.00	\$30.00	\$105.00
1 hour, 30 minutes	\$100.00	\$30.00	\$130.00
1 hour, 45 minutes	\$115.00	\$30.00	\$145.00
2–3 hours	\$125.00	\$30.00	\$155.00
4–5 hours	\$250.00	\$30.00	\$280.00
6–8 hours	\$500.00	\$30.00	\$530.00

*Nonrefundable

Questions? Email Photography.USNA@usda.gov.



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U.S. National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 202-245-4523 | www.usna.usda.gov

Photography Permits: Frequently Asked Questions

Do you provide photographers? What does a permit grant me?

The National Arboretum does not provide photographers. The permit allows the use of the grounds and selected location(s) as the backdrop for your session. You may bring cameras and associated equipment (i.e. tripods, lighting, etc.)

Am I able to have my session outside of the days and hours listed?

Oftentimes, yes. Most photography sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Please note that additional restrictions apply to sessions in the National Herb Garden, which is only available after 3 p.m. on weekdays.) Sessions booked outside of these hours require an additional, flat fee of \$180.00 for a security officer's presence. Without exceptions, no permits are issued for Saturdays.

What happens if it rains?

We encourage you to monitor the weather leading up to your shoot. If you determine that inclement weather has the potential to disrupt your session, please let us know by email as soon as possible prior to your arrival on the grounds, and we will be happy to work with you to reschedule for another day and time, pending availability.

Do you allow drones?

No. Washington, D.C. is governed by a Special Flight Rules Area, which prohibits flying an unmanned aircraft without specific authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Can I bring props?

Balloons, confetti, burning candles, the spreading of flower or plant parts, and the placing of large furniture are not permitted. Costumes and other small props are permitted within reason if they are not harmful or damaging to the natural resources of the National Arboretum. Props must be approved in advance of your session; when completing your application, please provide full details about what you intend to bring.

Are changing rooms available?

No. Limited restroom facilities are available but are not equiped to accommodate changing activities. The public's use of these facilities may not be restricted for any duration. Nudity is prohibited.



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Photography Permits: Frequently Asked Questions, continued

Where can I take photos?

You may select two (2) locations from any of our garden and plant collections as well as the Capitol Columns. Photography sessions are not permitted at the Administration Building (visitor center) or National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

Is it possible to have an elopement or other small ceremony during my session?

No. The permit is for photography or videography only. Elopements, vow exchanges, ring ceremonies, and the like are not covered under this permit. Wedding ceremonies of any size or scope are handled by our partner organization, the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). FONA works with MTG hospitality on all special event rentals at the Arboretum. <u>Visit FONA's website</u> to learn more, and email Natalie Thomas at MTG (natalie@mtghospitality.com) to inquire about getting married at the National Arboretum.

I'm taking photos with my phone. Do I need to pay the permit fee?

Yes. Photography permits are not dependent on the type of equipment or props used. If your photography includes subjects, props, models, or anything other than the natural and cultural resources of the National Arboretum and/or is for commercial or promotional purposes, a permit is required and fees will be applied. We encourage you to commemorate your visit but if you are planning for a photoshoot as described above, you must pay for a permit in advance.

Will you block off or close the area while I have my session?

No. The National Arboretum is open for all visitors to enjoy. We will not limit public access to any area of the grounds for a photography or videography session. You may request the assistance of a security officer to help guide the public around your shoot occuring during regular business hours. The fee for an officer's supervision for up to four (4) hours is \$180; there are no partial refunds of this fee for shorter sessions.

I'm working on a class project. Do I need to pay the permit fee?

No, with conditions. Your application must clearly outline the project details, the school or institution name, and the instructor's contact information. Once we have verified the provided information, the fee will be waived.

I am taking photos for a news story. Is a permit required?

No. Photography for news purposes is allowed and does not require a permit. Please contact us for details and let us know prior to your arrival.



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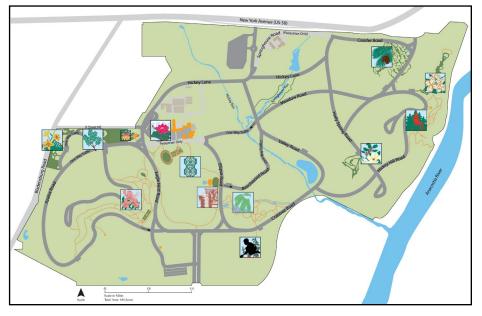
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Gardens & Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum

The Arboretum offers outdoor spaces suited to photoshoots of all sorts. If you are viewing this page on a screen, click the collection names below to visit the Arboretum's website and learn about each collection.

Using a paper copy? Scan the QR code with your phone to visit the Arboretum's website to learn more.





Asian Collections



Azalea Collections



Dogwood Collection



Fern Valley



Friendship Garden



Gotelli Conifer Collection



Holly & Magnolia Collections



Introduction Garden



National Boxwood Collection



National Capitol Columns



Perennial Collections



Washington Youth Garden



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