

# Basic Butterfly Photography



Basic tips and tricks to photography  
in the world of butterflies.

# The Most Important Rule of Photography!

If you are not a professional photographer, dependent upon pleasing other people with your photos, the first rule of photography is simple ...

... please yourself!

This course is designed to give basic guidelines only and to help you with a few basics of butterfly photography.

# Shadows

Shadows can add to or subtract from a photo.

- Top photo; the shadow on the boy's face adds mystery to the photo and does not detract from the subject; the caterpillar.
- Bottom photo; the shadow on the boy's face simply states that the photographer wasn't taking care when she was snapping this photo.





Deep shadow, half shadow, full sun ...  
the photographer simply took the plant and twisted it toward the sun to  
avoid shadows and take advantage of full sunlight.





- Although a photo editing program can brighten a photo ...  
... when adjusting a subject in deep shadow, the rest of the photograph will become too bright before the photograph is light enough to see the subject clearly.
- The photo on the right was taken by moving to the other side of the leaf and turning the leaf gently to position the dead caterpillar in full sun.



# Shadow of the Photographer



The photographers shadow ruined the first photo.



Take your photo from the sunny side of the butterfly.

- The photo on the left was taken facing the sun. The shady side of the butterfly is shown in the photo.
- The photo on the right was taken with the photographers back to the sun. The camera is facing the sunny side of the butterfly. Note that the silver spots are bright in the second photo.



# Focus on Your Subject



Focus on the subject to which you wish to draw attention.



Above;  
The camera is focused on the background.  
Right;  
The camera is focused on the butterfly.



Which is the subject?  
Caterpillar ... or grasshopper?





Shooting from the side will keep more of the butterfly in focus when a butterfly's wings are closed or nearly closed. Note that the angle of the camera (side rather than down) can make or break a photo!



Top photo:  
A photo taken  
parallel to the  
butterfly's wings  
keeps all parts of  
the wings in focus.



Bottom photo:  
Note that the wings  
are not in focus from  
side to side, top to  
bottom. The butterfly  
was not parallel with  
the camera lens.

# Tomorrow's Topics

Center Your Subject?

Tell Your Story!

Be Different!

