

Flagpole Photographers Newtown Workshop

April 28, 2018

All day	Ask lots of questions, really!
8:50	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

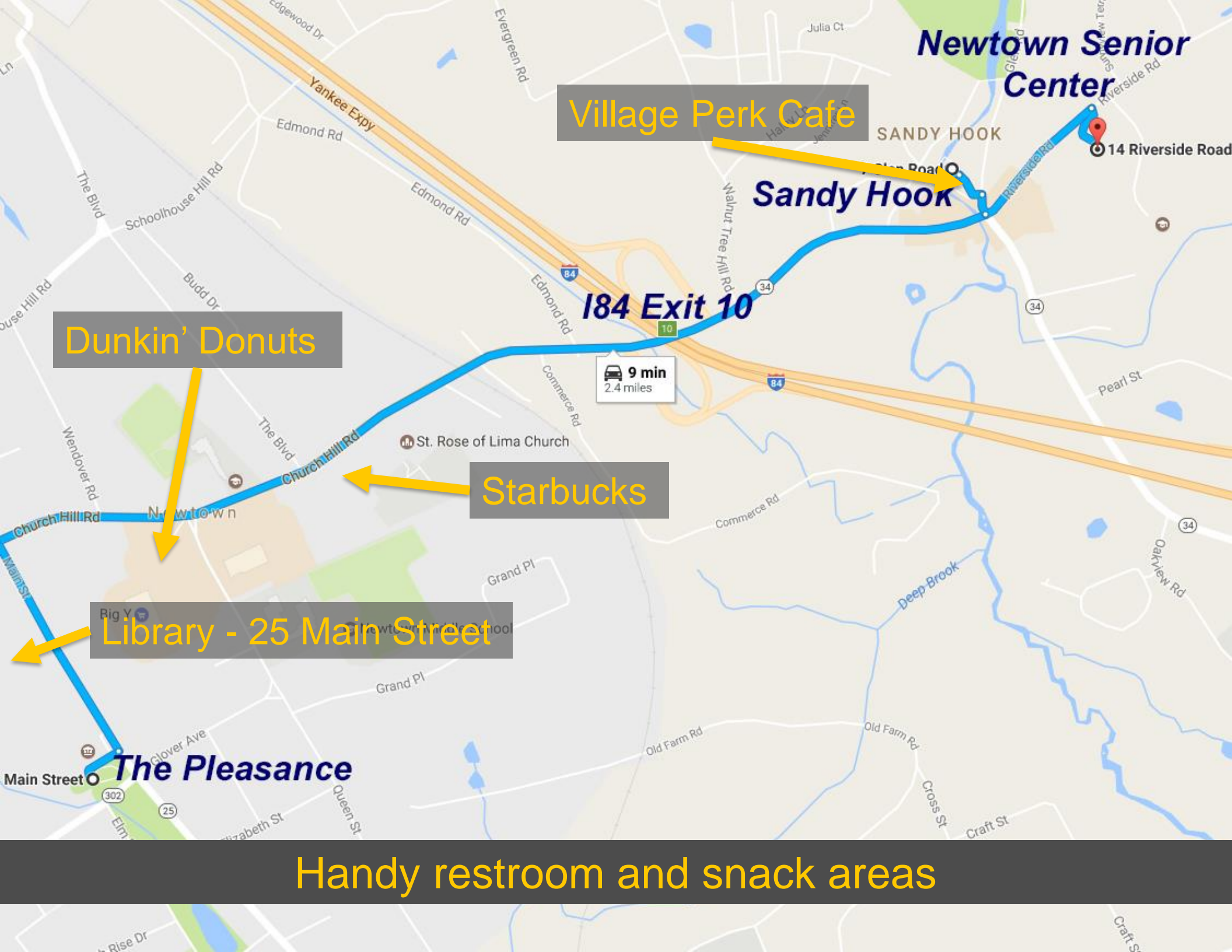
Starbucks

Dunkin' Donuts

Library - 25 Main Street

The Pleasance

Handy restroom and snack areas



Holding your camera steady

Steady camera = Sharper photos

Hands

1. Rest the lens in your left hand
2. Grip the camera body with your right hand
3. Right index finger over the shutter release

Elbows

1. Elbows tucked into your body
2. Or, rest elbows on a surface
3. Light breaths

Legs

1. A little apart so you're balanced
2. Take a knee, bringing one leg up
3. Lean against a wall or tree

Hands on Activity

1. Practice many points of contact
2. Gently squeeze shutter
3. Rotate the camera, shutter button should be on the top



Settings???? - start by using the Auto Modes

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

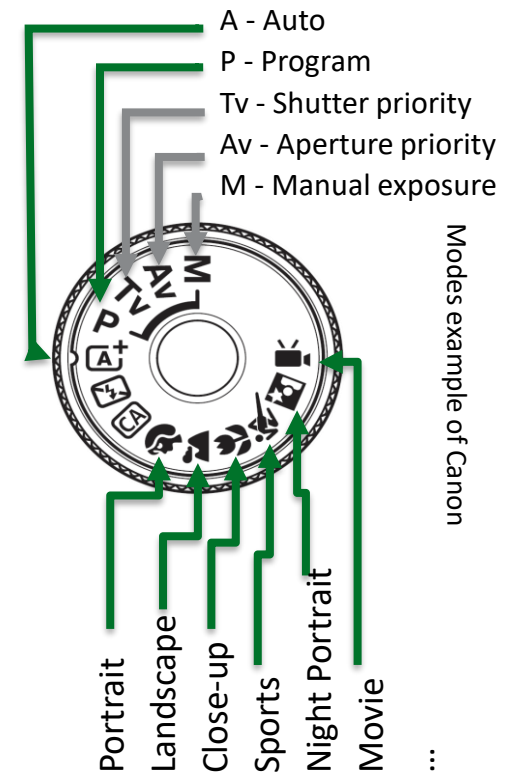
On you camera, or phone, you often find settings for specific scenes – they are handy

• 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 photo.
 - 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
- **Sports** - for a moving subject, a running person or from a moving car
- **P - Program** - like Auto, except the flash doesn't pop-up



Hands on Activity

1. Find a flower or leaf
2. Use Auto mode, take a photo
3. Now switch to Sports, take a photo
4. Now switch to Portrait mode, take a phot
5. Review the results and looking for any differences



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 mode 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

1. Where is the light coming from in relation to your scene and to your camera?
2. How strong is the light? Is it diffused (sun behind a cloud), are there many sources (multiple windows)
3. What color is the light? Is it golden hour (shortly after sunrise and before sunset), blue hour (twilight)
4. Is there a way to change the light? Wait, change the scene, move to a new location, use a flash ...
5. 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

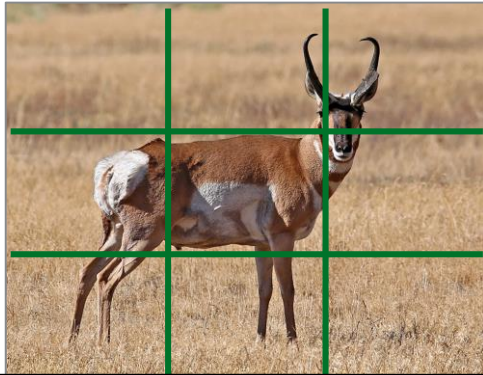
1. Take a photo of something on the ground near you
2. Take a photo looking up a tree
3. Look behind you to see what you missed



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



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



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

Focus - Ideas for avoiding blurry photos

What causes you to take blurry photos

#1 Camera motion

Slow down, stabilize the camera, gently squeeze the shutter button, or use a tripod or nature's tripod (a rock)

#2 Not actually focusing on subject

Often the background between 2 people
Learn to "see" what your camera is focusing on
Learn to press the button halfway to lock the focus

#3 Shutter speed is too slow to freeze motion

More on the next page

#4 Not all of the important items are in focus

Rule of thumb - Aperture number is around the number of items in the photo you want in focus
For example, f/8 for 8 people

Adjusting the Aperture

Use **Scene Auto Mode Landscape** for a large Aperture number - lots in focus

Use **Scene Auto Mode Portrait** for a small Aperture number - background out of focus

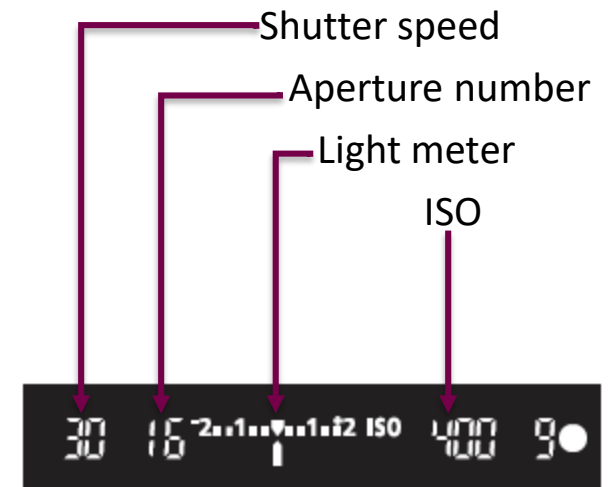
Use Mode **Av - Aperture** to choose any Aperture number

Hands on Activity

1. Press the shutter halfway and tell me what settings you are seeing
2. Repeat for a another scene
3. Blur the background
4. Blur the foreground
5. Have a sharp foreground and background



One or more focus points



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

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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*





Village Perk Cafe

The Villa Restaurant and Pizza

Figs Wood Fired Bristo

Subway

Foundry

Sandy Hook Diner

Sandy Hook Deli

Cover Two Sports Cafe

Nouveau Monde Wine Bar and Bistro

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

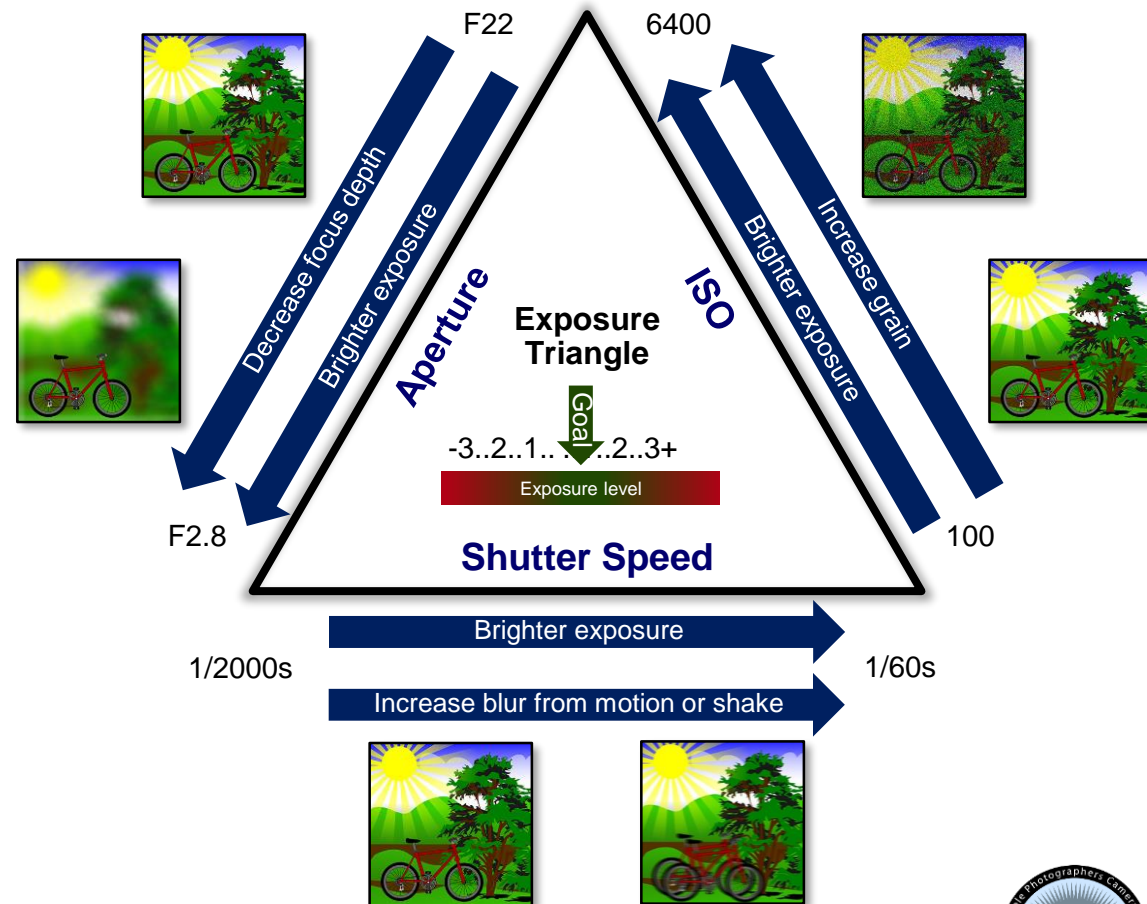
Scene Auto Mode

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

Newtown Police
Department

Newtown Parks
& Recreation

1 Main Street

Main St

Main St

Glover Ave

Sugar St

Elm Dr

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