



## Brightwater Site

### Photography at Brightwater - Lesson Flow

Begin by showing the pictures in the calendar or from the website. Tell the students that the photos that they take today could also appear in the calendar. At end of this session we will examine each other's photos and talk about why they took the photo and if there is any meaning behind the photo. The focus of their photographs must address their personal views of the ecosystem. Some things that we could suggest are making photos about how the environment meets our needs on an emotional, spiritual and physical basis. Example, chokecherries hanging on a tree, the quietness of the spring and someone sitting there thinking. ....

#### **The technical information they need to be successful. 5 minutes**

Why were these photos chosen for the calendar? Website?

The people who decide which photos go into the calendar/website are looking for:

**Composition** – the way the photograph has been put together, the focus of the picture and the other things in the photo that direct the eye to the focus of the picture. Hold your hands in a way that makes a square and look through it, move it around until you find an interesting scene. Everything inside that square is your composition. You have decided on the scene, the angle, and the distance.

#### **Examples of work – Brightwater 2005 Calendar:**

– Cover – the picture is only a pile of rocks but the focus is on the patterns and textures within the photo. As you walk around the trails you will see many different patterns and textures. Nature is full of intricate patterns, the spider's web, the trunk of the tree, the sun reflecting on moving water and the formation of a flock of geese flying overhead.

January – This photo uses perspective and line to direct the viewers' eye to the horizon.

February – When you are looking through the eyepiece of the camera you must concentrate on everything in the square. It is natural for people to only see what they want to see. As you look through photos at home take note of the photos that have something happening in the background that the photographer didn't notice before clicking the picture. This photo is a good example of how the photographer framed the scene with the trees on the two sides of the photo. This causes the viewer's eye to look at the scene.

May – demonstrates that the students can take a photo that is in the distance or close-up.

September- example of the use of colour.

Other suggestions:

- catch the reflection of the sun on the water but don't take the picture into the sun, find an angle away from the sun or put your hand above the lens to shade it so the sun doesn't shine directly into the lens.
- sunlight filtering through the leaves in the forest make beautiful patterns on the forest floor.
- catch someone laughing or deep in thought without them knowing you are taking the picture

### **Basics of working a camera**

#### **Camera parts:**

- don't move the camera when you push the button
- before you push the button make one last check that in every corner of the photo the objects compliment the focus of your picture
- remember that you can use the zoom feature to get closer to your subject
- you can also take pictures from different angles such as laying on the ground looking up
- We are focusing on photographs about the ecosystem of Brightwater and the people are part of the ecosystem so you can take pictures of people just don't take them posing for the picture. Take their pictures while they are unaware of you doing it so that they are just part of the environment: the same way that you would take a picture of a wild animal.

#### **Doing the activity 15-20 minutes**

-students are given time to take pictures of what interests them. Supervise by presenting great places to look around, points of view.

#### **Show it off: 5-10 minutes**

We come back together and look at some of the photos and talk about why they took that photo. How does the photo express their feelings about the ecosystem in Brightwater? Is there a message behind their photo? Does the photo express their feelings towards the landscape of Brightwater?

#### **Journaling**

The students will have **10 minutes** to express their private thoughts in a journal. What did photography teach you?