

Record Video with your Smart Phone

Recording video with your smart phone is easy. The smart phone has proprietary software included. This software will automatically set the aperture based on averaging light levels, automatically focus the shot based either on the center of the image or an average of several areas in the visual field. For immediate point and shoot these “built ins” will do a great job. But they can also work against you.

The following tips may help!

1. READ THE MANUAL! LOOK UP THE SMARTPHONE ON YOUTUBE!

Every smartphone camera can be manually set. You can control the dimensions of the recorded video the smaller the dimensions the smaller the file. You can set the camera’s aperture and focus. Setting these properly will eliminate the “out of focus because the camera is confused” and the “I shot people against a bright background and they are all silhouettes.” Taking manual camera settings into your own hands is not difficult!

2. HOLD THE CAMERA SIDEWAYS / HORIZONTAL!!!

You’ve seen the result many times vertical video on a horizontal screen. A vertical picture and a lot of black bars. Most smart phones adjust to shooting horizontal as they sense the camera’s position. A horizontal picture will fill the (TV) screen.

3. USE BOTH HANDS...or a TRIPOD...

A tripod is the way to go especially if you are creating a formal video. But if you are holding your camera USE both hands... Shakey? Tuck your elbows in! Because your smart phone is so light and thin it is actually very difficult to hold it steady, holding it parallel to the horizon is a trick too. Some smart phones have level indicators and motion dampening as part of the smartphone’s software. If not there are various free and paid apps that can greatly enhance the smart phone’s camera’s capabilities.

4. IF YOU CAN... DONT ZOOM IN... GET CLOSER

Safety and common sense are paramount. Ever zoom in using binoculars? Hard to keep the visual field steady isn’t it? Same thing for zooming your camera. The closer you get especially with a zoomed out camera the steadier your video. Also zooming restricts the light coming into the camera so being closer will mean a brighter picture. ALSO the closer to your subject the better the smart phone will “hear.”

5. SHOOT WITH THE LIGHT BEHIND YOU.

Cameras work capturing reflected light, so the light needs to “bounce off” your subject. If the subject is backed by a brighter background your subject will be dark. If you can’t switch the subject around manually adjust the camera aperture for the subject and or get closer to the subject to eliminate as much of the brighter background as possible!