

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Portrait Photography Rules & Guidelines

All posed and portrait photography of groups and individuals at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens requires a photography reservation made and payment for the reservation in advance. As well as the payment of all appropriate admission fees upon arrival.

Please email Atrium@nvrpa.org for all Wedding related photography, guidelines, and wedding/bridal photography as these are booked separately and have separate fees.

A Photography Reservation is Needed If Any of the Following Apply:

1. If the primary purpose of the visit is to capture pictures of a person and/or group and use the Garden as a backdrop.
2. Formal attire and/or costumes are being worn while being photographed.
3. Any photographer (professional, hobbyist, or friend/family) is present to take pictures.

Photography Session Rules and Guidelines:

Reservation Rules

- Before or after-hours photography sessions are not available.
- Video filming or drone use is not permitted on Garden grounds.
- Adjustments to photography reservation times will not be made due to late arrival.
- The Gardens does not provide a photographer or any assistance for a photography session.
- Staff reserve the right to limit or refuse existing or walk-in photography sessions.
- A maximum of one photography session per photographer and/or reservation holder is permitted per day
- Photographers may only host one client per photography session.
- No photography sessions may occur during the last hour the Gardens are open to the public.

Props & Attire:

- Costume pieces and hand-held props are welcome.
- Staff are unable to hold any changes of clothes, props, or other personal items.
- No people or props may be in Garden beds
- Only hand-held props are permitted, items not permitted include but are not limited to tables, chairs, arches, balloons, confetti, drones, flying lanterns, and/or pyrotechnics.

Location:

- No part of the Gardens may be closed or restricted for a photo session.
- A photography session reservation grants non-exclusive access to outdoor Garden facilities.
- Please be courteous of other guests and do not block pathways or obstruct views.
- There is no photography or set up permitted within the garden beds at any time.
- Photography sessions are not permitted inside the Visitor Center, Atrium or the Volgenau Conservatory.
- For photography at the Atrium please contact Atrium staff at Atrium@nvrpa.org.
- Photography sessions are not permitted during the Winter Walk of Lights.

Cancellation & Refund Policy:

- Reservations can be changed with no penalty with at least 24 hours' notice from the start time of the reservation.
- Cancellations, including weather related cancellations, must be made 24 hours in advance of the reservation start time to be eligible for a refund.
- After the reservation time has passed there are no refunds and a new reservation must be made.

Scheduling a Reservation:

Photography session reservations are available for two-hour increments during daytime admission only. Time slot reservations are available on a first come, first served basis. Reservations may be made no more than 90 days in advance from today's date.

Reservations can be reserved online using this link [here](#).

Reservation holders will receive a confirmation email and a permit number unique to their photography session. Please arrive at the Visitor Center prior to the photography session start time, sign in, and pick up the group's assigned photo pass. The photographer must ensure the pass is visible and return the pass upon departure.

Fees:

All guests, including the photographer, must pay the daily admission in addition to the photography fees. The photo pass must be returned no later than fifteen minutes after the Photography Session end time. Otherwise, the reservation holder will be required to pay the Late Return Fee.

- Two Hour Portrait and Posed Photography Session: \$50
- Late Return Fee (by the hour): \$50

Please email Atrium@nvrpa.org for all Wedding related photography inquiries, Wedding and bridal photography are booked separately and have separate fees.

To make a reservation, please use our online booking portal [here](#). For assistance or specific photography questions please contact 703-255-3631 ext 0.