

## Photography Permit - Frequently Asked Questions

Do you provide photographers? What does a permit grant me?

**The National Arboretum does not provide photographers. The permit allows the use of the grounds and the selected location(s) as the backdrop for your session. You may bring cameras and associated equipment (i.e. tripods, lighting etc.).**

Am I able to have my session outside of the days and hours listed?

**Currently, photography sessions are only permitted for Tuesdays, Thursday, and Sundays between 8:00am to 4:30pm. You may request an after -hours session beginning at 5:30pm. There is an additional fee of \$180 for a security officer's supervision for any after- hours photography or videography shoots.**

What happens if it rains on the day of the session?

**We encourage you to monitor the weather leading up to your shoot. If you determine that inclement weather has the potential to disrupt your session, please let us know as soon as possible prior to your arrival on the grounds and we will be happy to work with you to reschedule for another day and time when permits are available.**

Do you allow the use of drones?

**Drones are not permitted. "The National Capitol Region is governed by a Special Flight Rules Area within a 30 - mile radius of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport which restricts all flights in the greater DC area" (FAA website).**

Can I bring props?

**Balloons, burning candles, spreading of flower parts and the placing of large furniture are not permitted. Costumes and other small props are permitted within reason if they are not harmful or damaging to the natural resources of the National Arboretum. Props must be approved in advance of your session. Please provide full detail on what you would like to bring in your application.**

Are changing rooms available?

**Changing rooms are not available. Limited restroom facilities are available but are not designed to handle changing activities. Use by the public of these facilities may not be restricted. Nudity is prohibited.**

Where I can I take photos?

**You may select (2) locations from any of our garden and plant collections {[Insert link here to gardens and collections page](#)}, as well as the Capitol Columns. Photography sessions are not permitted at the Administration/Visitor Building or the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.**

Is it possible to have an elopement or small ceremony during my photography session?

**The permit issued is for photography or videography only. Elopements, vow exchanges or ring ceremonies are not covered under this process. Wedding ceremonies of any size and scope are handled by our stakeholder organization, Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). FONA partners with MTG Hospitality – an event management company. Please contact Natalie Thomas to inquire about having your wedding that the Arboretum.**

**MTG Hospitality**

[natalie@mtghospitality.com](mailto:natalie@mtghospitality.com)

I'm working on a class project; will I need to pay a fee?

**Your application needs to clearly outline the details of the project, as well as the school/institution name and contact information for the instructor. If you can provide this verifiable information the permit fee will be waived.**

I'm taking photos with my phone. Will I need to pay the permit fee?

**Photography permits are independent of equipment or props used. If your photography includes subjects, props, models or anything more than the natural and cultural resources of the National Arboretum a permit is required, and fees are may be applied. We encourage to commemorate your visit but if you are planning for a photoshoot as described above, you must pay the permit fee.**

I am taking photos for a news story. Is a permit required?

**Photography for news purposes is allowed and does not require a permit. Please contact us for details and let us know prior to your arrival.**

Will you block off or close the area while I have my session?

**The National Arboretum is open for all visitors to enjoy. We will not limit public access to any area of the grounds for a photography or videography session. You may request the assistance of security officer to help guide the public around your shoot. The fee for an officer's supervision is \$180 (up to 4 hour block).**