

# Composition

Compiled by Bob Spalding



1. Have a strong center of interest – a dominate area emphasized by sharp focus, color contrast, pattern, repetition or rhythm.
2. Throw the background out of focus by use of a large aperture and fastest shutter speed if the background intrudes on subject interest. A change of viewpoint might attain the same end by eliminating the obtrusive details.
3. Generally, if there is apparent movement, leave room in front of the subject in framing to suggest space in which to move.
4. Use horizontal and vertical shots for added compositional interest and for more creative final layouts.
5. Use trees, leaves of trees, fences and other foreground objects – including people – to **frame your subject**.
6. Continually eliminate, simplify and tighten your composition for increased impact, graphic quality and interest. Use long focal lenses if necessary (or crop the photo in your imaging program).
7. In scenes, place the horizon line above or below the halfway point of your frame for a less static and more interesting picture. Use of reflections in water or foreground framing will often add to the balance and interest qualities of your photo.
8. In close-ups of wildlife as well as people, **focus on the eyes** – they show so much of the subject's character.
9. Use lines for interest and unity for they are often an effective way to direct attention towards the center of interest.
10. Practice the Rule of Thirds. Many times the picture can be improved by placing the subject away from the center of the scene.