



## Making Friends with your DSLR

G26050110

With Sandy Kaplan

May 3-9, 2026

### Welcome to Making Friends with your DSLR!

Hi everyone, welcome to "Making Friends with your DSLR" and to Ghost Ranch. I am so happy to say hello and so excited for our upcoming class. For those of you who have been here before, welcome home.....for those of you who have never been here before, oh my goodness, WELCOME! You are in for a real treat.

Just a quick introduction. My name is Sandra Kaplan, otherwise referred to as Sandy. In the case you have not already checked out my web site, please feel free to do so, [www.sandraleekaplanphotography.com](http://www.sandraleekaplanphotography.com).

I would like you to know that I am always available to you for any photo questions you may have, both before and after our class together. Please feel free to email, [sandykaplan3@gmail.com](mailto:sandykaplan3@gmail.com) or phone me 1-970-989-3840.

It's a bit early to check weather forecasts for Ghost Ranch, however, just know that I always carry an umbrella with me, just in case. It's also a great tool to have to shade the sun when you need a little shade for that spectacular



image you are about to capture. This one is entirely up to you. I am always being asked about what to wear. Here at Ghost Ranch, it is always a good idea to dress in layers, and we are very casual, so be comfortable. For those of you who will be hiking, good sturdy shoes.

I will be sending along a Materials List, things you will need for class. As I've already said, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about the class or the materials list. And, if you need to purchase anything, please do it sooner rather than later. Sometimes the mail is slow, so give yourself plenty of time to gather what you may need.

Necessary items for the workshop, each student should bring the following:

- Notebook/paper and pen/pencil to take notes
- Digital camera that has manual choices.
- Make sure your camera battery is fully charged, ready to go. Be sure to bring your charging cord!
- The instruction booklet or manual for the camera you will be using in class.
- At least one SD or memory card. It must be empty and ready to receive new images.
- You will want to have at least one jump or thumb drive to transfer images.
- A secure strap for the camera, so it will not slip out of your hand and fall to the ground.
- A lens cleaning cloth or tissue and liquid.



- Connection cords from your camera to your computer. **\*\*IMPORTANT:** If you have a laptop computer, please be sure you have all your power cords and camera connection cords.
- Both men and women must have something to tie their hair back away from their face and/or a ball cap or hat.
- You will also need to protect your lens, and will do that with a ND, UV, Haze or Skylight filter for the principal lens you will be using in the class. If you do not yet have these, DO NOT purchase these before you speak with me FIRST please. Filters are like shoes, you will need to get the right "fit" for what you will be doing. Just to be clear (no pun intended) you will not need all of these, just one, but you will want to choose the right one.
- If you carry your camera in a camera case, it's always a good idea to have a small dry cloth/towel in the case. This is to be used if your camera gets wet during our day out shooting.
- This is high desert country, so the earth is very dry and there is a lot of dust in the air. So, you will also need a small paint brush. This brush should have soft bristles, you will be using it to dust dirt off your camera and/or lenses. Even if you are not using a camera case, it's always a good idea to have these things handy when you are shooting.

Optional materials to bring:

- A shutter release cable for your camera. This can be Bluetooth or an actual cord.
- A tripod (note: if you do not already own a tripod, do not purchase one BEFORE you speak with me. Call me ASAP if you intend to purchase one before the class and I will explain exactly how to choose the tripod



that is perfect for you. Tripods have particular sizes, you need one that will fit you.

- A polarizing filter for your primary lens. (note: if you do not already own a polarizing filter, DO NOT purchase it before you speak with me.)

*Please be sure, before you arrive at Ghost Ranch, that you already know how to take your images off your particular camera and transfer them to your particular computer. And, that you understand how to turn a RAW file into a Jpg.*

We're going to have lots of fun in this class. If you have any questions about the items noted above or about this class, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

### **Itinerary:**

This course will be dependent upon the class. How much you already know, and how quickly you all learn. However, here is a brief schedule of the week, all subject to change of course. I believe you will all be quite surprised how quick you will all catch on.

Day 1... we will be in our classroom most of the time concentrating on the basics of your camera and photography.

Day 2...we will be in and out of our classroom, i.e. I will give information, and you will go out and shoot, we will come back in and look at what you have done and we will repeat this most of the day.

Towards the end of that day we will go up on the highway and photograph cars racing by. We will be shooting "motion".

Day 3...Depending upon what the class decided, we can go out on location the third day, away from the ranch for the entire day.



Day 4...On Thursday we will shoot in the very early morning (sun up), take a break for most of the day and shoot at “the golden hour”, which is actually about 15 to 20 minutes !!! And again, at dusk. Golden hour generally happens during dinner, so I would suggest we eat quickly that day and then go shoot. We will also do the night shoot after that.

So we will meet up before breakfast and shoot, and right after dinner we will go out and shoot again. For this day, I would strongly recommend having a warm jacket and a head lamp with you. You should also have a shutter release for your camera, and a tripod.

Day 5... (Friday) will be a short day, we will be getting ready for the Art Show, so anything you feel is missing from your photos, or anything you have not quite understood we will cover at that time.

Note, after each time we shoot, we will come back to the classroom, download your photos from our camera to our computers and look at them.

Every student will see what everyone else is doing and we will all have feedback on what we have done.

Remember, each one of us has our very own style. Our very own way of seeing. Your photos do not have to look like anyone else's. Your style is personal to you. It is the way we individually see and process information. So, don't compare your work to anyone else's. This is a fun class, not a serious one.

It is for this reason that you must know how to up-load your photos to your computer from your camera, and how to down-load your photos from your computer to a jump drive. **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN CLASS.**

You will also need to know how to size your photos **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN CLASS.** We will be shooting in Raw (I will teach you that) but you will need to know how to downsize them into a jpg., **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN CLASS.**



Once you have signed up for the class I will be available to help you with any questions you may have before the class begins. So, be sure to phone, email or text me with any questions you may have regarding the class. I am on Mountain Time here in Colorado.

Cell: 970-989-3840

Email: [sandykaplan3@gmail.com](mailto:sandykaplan3@gmail.com)

Please don't be shy....call with any questions. Do not purchase a tripod before you call me first, if you don't already have one. Tripods are very specific so call me first please.