

# Descanso Gardens Photography Policy

Descanso Gardens welcomes visitors, commercial photographers and members of the media to take photographs or film on our grounds, according to the policies and procedures outlined below. Of primary importance to Descanso Gardens is care of the grounds and nurturing our collections as well as a serene experience for visitors, therefore photographers are asked to be sensitive to these priorities.

## **Non-commercial Candid Photography**

Informal, candid picture-taking and videotaping made for personal use, not for commercial purposes, are permitted throughout Descanso Gardens without fee or special permission. No flash photography or tripods are permitted in the buildings, although tripods may be used in the Gardens. Additional photographic equipment is prohibited (lights, reflectors, props, costumes, models, etc.), except under commercial contract. Amateur photographers may not use their representations of the Gardens for any public or commercial purpose unless approved by Descanso Gardens.

## **Non-commercial Portrait Photography**

Formal portrait photography sessions, e.g., for Christmas cards, pregnancy photos, etc. are permitted without charge under specific conditions: The subjects of the photography must be members of Descanso Gardens at the Family Plus level or higher; parents and their children, only. The number in the party should not exceed 6 and those exceeding the number allowed per membership (but fewer than 6) must pay for admission. There must be only one photographer. Props and changes of clothes are not permitted. This benefit will be awarded once per year. These sessions will not be permitted after 2pm on weekends during wedding season (March 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>). No more than two groups at one time will be allowed. Reservations are recommended. Please call the Visitor Center at (818) 949-4200 or e-mail [visitorcenter@descansogardens.org](mailto:visitorcenter@descansogardens.org).

## **Wedding and Professional Portrait Photography**

A permit is necessary for those who wish to use the Gardens' setting as the background for formal, posed photography or for large groups (over 6) (weddings, quinceañeras, family groups [other than those described above], engagements, prom parties, etc.) and must be approved and scheduled through the Special Events office of Descanso Gardens in advance. Location fees, permits and certain restrictions apply. For an application call the Special Events office at (818) 949-4291, 9am – 5pm Monday through Friday or e-mail [specialevents@descansogardens.org](mailto:specialevents@descansogardens.org).

**Commercial Filming and Photography** are permitted by appointment only and at the current rate. For more information please contact the Special Events office at (818) 949-4291, 9am – 5pm Monday through Friday or e-mail [specialevents@descansogardens.org](mailto:specialevents@descansogardens.org).

## **Student Photography or Filming**

Student projects are permitted; however, commercial filming/photography fees and certain restrictions apply if cast, crew, costume changes, etc. are part of the project. For additional information, call the Special Events office at (818) 949-4291, 9am – 5pm Monday through Friday or e-mail [specialevents@descansogardens.org](mailto:specialevents@descansogardens.org).

## **Press and Influencer Inquiries**

Members of the media and social media influencers must make arrangements prior to visiting through our Public Relations office at (818) 949-7984 or e-mail [pr@descansogardens.org](mailto:pr@descansogardens.org).