



Delaware Highlands Conservancy

... a land trust working with landowners to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware River region.

Photography Policy

APPROVED May 18, 2022

Introduction

Delaware Highlands Conservancy (Conservancy) owns and manages the Van Scott Nature Reserve to protect and improve natural resources, provide a venue for educational programming, and welcome visitors to enjoy nature and to appreciate the importance of land conservation and responsible stewardship and environmental sustainability. The Conservancy has decided that allowing professional photographers use of the Reserve can be done without interfering with these goals.

Purpose

The Conservancy has developed the Photography Policy to protect natural resources and to ensure a safe and rewarding experience for all users. The purpose of the Photography Policy is to outline the conditions that photographers must follow in order to have access to the Van Scott Nature Reserve and other land owned by the Conservancy. This policy will apply to photographers who are commissioned to take photographs by a client for a fee. This may be portrait photography, stock photography, commercial photography, or any type of photography where a fee is exchanged for a photo service. **Photographers who take photos for personal use, charging no fee to a client, are welcome to take photographs on the Reserve at no cost. All applicable rules nevertheless apply.**

Permit

Professional photographers will be required to obtain a permit from the Conservancy. The permit will be valid for one (1) date. Individual permits must be obtained for each date a photographer wishes to use the Reserve. Applications for a permit must be submitted electronically. Conservancy staff will review the permit to ensure that it does not interfere with any scheduled events. Should the application be accepted, a fee of \$100 will be required to be submitted before the permit will be issued. Photography is limited to still photography. Filming or the use of drones on the Reserve is prohibited except where special permission is granted.

As part of the permit application, the photographer shall agree to release and forever discharge the Conservancy and their servants, agents, successors and assigns from any and all liability of any nature and any and all actions and causes of actions, suits, debts, accounts, bonds, covenants, contracts, agreements, judgments, claims, and demands of whatsoever nature in law or in equity arising out of, from, or due to the activity indicated below.

- The photographer further agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Conservancy, their agents, employees, servants, successors and assigns from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any persons, firms, or corporations in connection with our actions on these premises.

- The photographer further agrees to make financial restitution for any damage to the property caused by the photographer and/or the photographer's guests and their use of the property.

Conditions for Use

Considerations of public safety and the protection of natural resources within the Reserve take precedence over any of the photographer's activities. Therefore, the photographers must agree to the following conditions which will be part of the application required for a permit:

- No more than 15 people (not including the photographer) may attend the photography session.
- All parties must stay on marked trails and in mowed areas at all times.
- Tree climbing is not permitted.
- Photographers and their clients must stay at least 50 feet away from all buildings.
- Nudity is prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the property at any time.
- Cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited.
- Photo shoots may not involve large props such as furniture or tents.
- Photographers may bring no more than 4 stands (this includes lighting rigs, tripods, or other equipment) designed to hold cameras and lighting equipment.
- Photo shoots cannot conflict with events taking place on the Reserve. Our website holds a listing of most of our upcoming events: <https://delawarehighlands.org/events/>
- Photographers understand they are not entitled to exclusive use of the property and that the property will remain open to the public. Photographers must be respectful of other visitors.
- Photographers shall be responsible for all of the actions and activities of their party (photographer, clients, and guests).
- Any public-facing photos (photos published in newspapers, websites, social media, etc.) must give the location photo credit "Delaware Highlands Conservancy Van Scott Nature Reserve".
- Photographs may not be used for political purposes including in political campaigns or advertising.
- Photographs may not be used to promote a business.

Photographers must also follow the Reserve Rules which include, but are not limited to:

- Dogs are not permitted.
- No littering.
- The Reserve is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Vehicles are only permitted on the designated parking areas. All equipment must be carried to any location on the Reserve from the parking area and removed immediately after the photo shoot.

The full list of Reserve Rules is posted at the trail head and on the Conservancy's website:

www.delawarehighlands.org/vsnr/reserve-rules/