Cumming Nature Center
Photography Policy & Permit Information

The landscape here at Cumming Nature Center (CNC) is spectacular, and we welcome photographers who are seeking a striking, natural setting for their photo shoot. Photographers who would like to shoot at CNC are required to obtain a photo permit for any commercial or portrait photography that falls under the following categories:

- The photographer is being paid for their services;
- The photographer plans to sell the photos (prints or digital);
- The photographer is using photos to promote a business, product, or service;
- The photos are for any purpose except private, personal use.

All proceeds from photo permits help preserve this beautiful landscape by supporting environmental education and trail maintenance at CNC.

Rules:
- Photographers must have a photo permit.
- Sessions must take place during CNC open hours unless groups have prior approval from CNC staff.
- Check in at the Welcome Desk to purchase the permit before heading to the shoot area.
- Be respectful of CNC property and other visitors. Photography sessions may not interfere with trail use (i.e. you must let other visitors use trails).
- Do not go off trail or disrupt natural habitats by picking flowers or other plants, moving natural elements, or using items like confetti/glitter/etc. as props. Leave no trace of your session!

**IMPORTANT:** CNC does not reserve specific areas for photography sessions and maintains the right to ask any party to move if space is needed for nature center programs or events. *Please call the nature center to avoid known scheduling conflicts* (585-374-6160 ext. 106). A staff member can let you know if there are any scheduled events or programs that might interfere with your plans.

**Permit fees:**

$25 for one-day photo permit (fee includes admission for your group)

**Purchase a Permit:**
Photographers can purchase permits day-of at the Welcome Desk. Call 585.374.6160 ext. 106 with questions.
Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I don’t purchase a photo permit?
A staff member will likely approach you and ask you to purchase a photo permit. Remember, the cost of the permit helps preserve a landscape worth photographing!

What if I’m not a professional photographer?
If you are being paid a fee for taking photos, plan to sell your photos (in print or digital format), or are using the photos to promote a business, product, or service, we ask that you support the nature center by purchasing a photography permit.

Do I need to schedule the shoot?
You must purchase your permit on the day of the shoot. Note that CNC does not reserve spaces for photo shoots, so it is important to call us in advance to see if CNC has anything scheduled on the day of your session that would interfere with your plans.

Can I purchase a permit on the day of the session?
Yes, you cannot purchase permits in advance. However we’d advise you to call us in advance to see if CNC has anything scheduled on the day of your session that would interfere with your plans.

What if I’m planning something more intense than the average photo shoot and really want to have the trail to myself?
Please reach out to Abby Merz at amerz@rmsc.org with any special requests.

What if I have several groups I’d like to shoot throughout the day?
A one-day permit will cover however many groups you would like to shoot. That said, we ask photographers to please be reasonable with this rule and consider the needs of other visitors!

Who is responsible for purchasing the permit?
It is up to the photographer and client to decide who will purchase the permit. CNC only asks that someone in the party has purchased it.

How do I pay for a permit?
You can purchase a one-day or annual photography permit on the day of the shoot at the Welcome Desk using cash or credit card.