Photography Guidelines

Cheekwood is a cultural arts center and a botanical garden which exists for the benefit of the public. This mission and the collections may place constraints on the property which you may not encounter elsewhere. We appreciate your understanding and compliance with these guidelines for your safety and the safety of others to ensure our properties continue to be available for public enjoyment.

PLEASE NOTE: All use of photography taken on the Cheekwood premises for promotional or commercial use must credit Cheekwood as follows: “Photographed at Cheekwood, Nashville, TN.”

• All professional photography sessions must be booked through the Cheekwood Special Events Office.
• For non-members, a dual household membership is included in the non-member fee of $300. Current Cheekwood members may use the discounted rate of $200.
• All photo sessions are restricted to the grounds; SESSIONS INSIDE THE HISTORIC MANSION & MUSEUM AND OTHER BUILDINGS IS PROHIBITED
  • The photographer is not permitted to gain membership for these shoots or use personal membership when booking a shoot.
  • Photo session fees include admission for the clients and the photographer; additional participants must pay admission.
  • Photography sessions are available in three hour increments from 9:00am - 5:00pm. Any session desiring photos after 5 pm will result in a $100 after hours fee. Peak month photo sessions (March-June, September, and October) are available Tuesday-Friday only. Off-peak months may have daily availability for photo sessions. Cheekwood is closed to the public on Mondays and is not available for photography sessions.
  • During November & December through the end of Holiday LIGHTS in January, all guests must be off the grounds by 4pm. No afterhours shoots will be available at this time.
  • Props are not permitted on the grounds, including but not limited to: balloons, animals, pyrotechnics/sparklers, candles, bubbles, chalk, glitter, confetti, alcohol, cake or large food items. Animals are not allowed on the Cheekwood property.
  • You may not attach any items to or from any structure on-site, i.e. trees, bushes, railings, statuary, sculptures.
  • You may not climb on balustrades, railings, walls, fountains, streams or other areas not generally associated with foot traffic. Please remain on pathways and turf grass at all times; at no time are you permitted to enter the planting beds.
  • Please be courteous of Cheekwood visitors: we are open to the public daily until 5:00pm. The client may not monopolize a site or inhibit access to a site or exhibit by the visiting public.
  • No pop-up ceremonies allowed with this photography session. Please see our Special Events Office if you’re interested in holding an elopement, a ceremony or a reception at Cheekwood.
  • We allow one complimentary, non-weather related rescheduling. Each additional is a $20 fee. Weather cancellations/rescheduling can be made no more than 48 hours in advance.
  • No plants, art, or other exhibit or Cheekwood property items may be removed, moved, or covered for any reason. Cheekwood cannot guarantee specific vegetation, blooms, conditions of grass or grounds, or the installation of works of art. Cheekwood is not responsible for the impact an exhibition(s), either temporary or permanent, may have on your event including garden statuary.
  • Drones may not be used without explicit written permission from Cheekwood and permitting.
  • All vehicles must remain on paved roads. No vehicle access is allowed for gravel or dirt roads at any time. Day of Event photography for Cheekwood brides: For photography on your wedding day, you are allowed to take photography anywhere on the grounds from 9:00am-5:00pm. At 5:00pm, when we close to the public, we ask that your group return to your reserved space or garden. For specific site availability after 5:00pm, you photographer may contact our office to see what area is available for use. All locations that are accessible are available on a first come, first serve basis the day of your function and cannot be reserved in advance.
  For example, if the Museum of Art is booked for a function the Wisteria Arbor is not available for wedding party photographs during that event. Please book your complimentary 3 hour photo session for engagement photos or bridal shoot with a Cheekwood Special Event representative.

THIS SERVES AS THE CONTRACT FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION. PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR YOUR RECORDS.