Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I am just a beginner and don’t have fancy gear. Can I still come to any event?
A: You’ll find the community very supportive and many are eager to answer your questions. The only challenge you might encounter is with a studio based session that requires a hot-shoe adaptor so you can trigger the studio flashes. If in doubt check with the Meetup host.

Q: I can’t make a session do I RSVP with a NO.
A: If previously said YES then PLEASE change your RSVP to NO. Just not showing up when you once said YES causes the organizer many issues and is a great disservice to everyone on the waitlist. If you have not yet replied and simply aiming to suggest you do not intend to come to this event, that is unnecessary. In fact, if everyone of our 750+ members RSVP’d NO to every event that would be a pile of unnecessary mail traffic.

Q: The sessions I’m interested in are always full. What can I do?
A: We are victims of our own success. A lot of hosts have been posting popular Meetups but very few venues can accommodate more than 20 or so people and many can only accommodate 3 to 5. These of course fill quickly. What seems to be happening is they are filled by members who can respond immediately to a new opportunity via a cell phone or those routinely on-line. Thus someone who checks their e-mail once a day for instance, will find that many sessions filled hours earlier. So aside from being tethered to your cell phone (and ensuring you mail settings are configured to set messages immediately), we suggest you join the waitlist. This lets organizers know how popular an event is and encourages them to host a 2nd even 3rd session.

Q: Some sessions have a fee and I want to RSVP but do not have a PayPal account.
A: You do not need a PayPal Account. We simply use PayPal to process any major credit card or debit card. It is a very secure process and no one gets you credit info. In fact we can’t even tell if you used Mastercard or Visa. We just get an electronic note saying you’ve successful paid. If you are reluctant to use credit card online, we understand but it puts you a disadvantage as most sessions will fill long before you can make alternate arrangements with the Meetup host. Consider using pre-paid credit cards for all you online needs. These cards can be preloaded with small amounts of cash and if lost, stolen or abused the value of the card is limited to the cash balance. Even useful to give your kids a emergency fund.
Q: I paid for a Meetup but can no longer attend.
A: Just check the refund policy posted by the Meetup host. In most instances they’ll allow for a refund if you provide sufficient notice. Even if the deadline for refunds has passed, if you change your RSVP to NO this sends all the people on the waitlist a notice stating there is a last minute opening. If one of them steps in most hosts will approve the refund since they costs have been covered.

Q: I’m first on the waitlist. Will I be the first accepted if there is a new opening?
A: Unfortunately no. We are constrained by the design of the Meetup web site. Chances are you are discussing a Meetup with a fee. (Free ones are often open ended and have no limits or waitlists). Since there is a fee involved and Meetup didn’t collect a fee to put you on the waitlist, it can’t move you into the newly opened slot you until the payment is confirmed so the system treats everyone on the waitlist equally. The first to respond to the new opening with their payment gets the spot.

Q: A lot of sessions have fees. Where do the fees go?
A: The host of the Meetup selects the fee amount and gets the funds collected after the session is held. What they do with the funds is at their discretion. They do not have to disclose nor account for the funds. While most are simply covering costs of models, equipment, facilities … others are including payment for their time and effort. We neither encourage nor discourage a given fee practice. If they overprice a session, then they simply will have difficulty finding enough participants.

Q: I have ideas. Can I host a Meetup session.
A: Please do. Anyone can suggest a Meetup and we encourage this as a means to create more Meetups and have them reflect the interests of the members. Simply go to “Schedule a new Meetup”. Enter as many details as possible, include the date, time and location if possible. If you there is a max number of attendees or a fee associated with the session let us know. We review the Suggested Meetup finalize the details and ANNOUNCE the event. This makes you the host and you have full edit privileges for the event so you can modify the description, alter the date, time, location etc. As the host you are simply making the event possible. You do not need to be an expert or guru in some area of photography. You may simply be heading to Gatineau Park to take pictures on Saturday. Just suggest it as a Meetup and you may find a number of people happy top tag along and have a nice informal session chatting and taking pictures.

Q: I’m a model (or MUA) and interested in joining a session.
A: We created a separate posting for models entitled “Opportunities for Models” check it out at http://www.meetup.com/The-Ottawa-Photography-Meetup-Group/messages/boards/thread/25748782/0#80245372

Q: I just attended a Meetup, how do I share my Pictures?
A: On each event page, you’ll find a link below the event title entitled “Add Photos”. This opens a page where you can upload your photos. Feel free to upload them at any size. Also suggested is that you load many if not all of them at once. Each upload sends an e-mail informing your fellow participants new images are available. So if you upload 9 images one-at-a-time then everyone gets 9 e-mails.