

PORTRAIT & SPECIAL OCCASION PHOTOGRAPHY POLICIES

We are delighted that you are considering Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center (EWBC) as the location for your photos. The guidelines outlined below are intended for all guests, however reservations are recommended for those who wish to use the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center as a backdrop for posed or directed photography. We ask all photographers to please help us maintain the integrity of the Wetlands by honoring these policies. They are intended to ensure that EWBC can fulfill its mission of protecting native habitat and increasing the understanding of birds and wildlife.

GUEST PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs are a wonderful way to remember your visit. For your own enjoyment, visitors and members are welcome to take snapshot photographs of plants, wildlife, individuals and subjects that capture your visit. EWBC defines a **snapshot** as an informal photograph that is shot spontaneously and quickly without artistic intent. Guests should still observe our policy under **General Photography Policies**. You may share your photos of the Wetlands on social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

DEFINITION OF PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center defines portrait photography as all wedding, engagement, quinceañera, family, maternity, portfolio, prom, graduation, and any other posed portraiture of individuals by professional photographers, as well as semi-pro, pro-am or amateur photographers, whether paid or unpaid. Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center reserves the right to further define Portrait Photography on a case-by-case basis.

DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center defines commercial photography as fashion shoots, advertisement and promotion. Commercial photographers and videographers, please see the City of Edinburg's photo and video policy. All commercial photo shoot applications must be submitted at least four weeks in advance to Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center for approval by Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center and the City of Edinburg. Artists seeking to make **independent films** must also apply for approval in advance. Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center reserves the right to further define Commercial Photography on a case-by-case basis. For commercial requests only, please email EWBC Manager at moliva@cityofedinburg.com

PORTRAIT PHOTO POLICY

All portrait photographers are recommended to schedule in advance by calling (956) 381-9922. Please note we prefer the photographer reserves the session. Photographers who do not pre-schedule may be approached by staff members during their photo session regarding payment.

Portrait mini-sessions: In order to fulfill our mission with regard to a positive visitor experience, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center prohibits photographers from scheduling mini-sessions.

Reservations and Permit: Currently, reservations are not required, but recommended. Reservations are approved and accepted during the **4 weeks to 24 hours** prior to your photo shoot. Please note that phone inquiries are accepted Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ***Non-photography pass holders must check in at the information desk to pick up a photo permit when they arrive for the shoot.***

Professional Photographers: To become a **Photography Pass Holder**, the fee is \$75 for one year. Photography Pass Holders do not pay the per-session fee, but it is recommended that they schedule their sessions.

All Photographers are limited to one photo session per day.

Artists and Nature Photographers:

When visiting on their own, artists and nature photographers need not register. Artists and nature photographers must adhere to the guidelines listed below, avoiding damage to plants, wildlife and disruption of other visitors or EWBC activities.

RESERVATIONS

Please call (956) 381-9922 to request a photo session. Please note that Photography Pass Holders are limited to one photo session a day, **Tuesdays-Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Mondays, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.** All photographers must exit the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center grounds 30 minutes prior to closing. Photography pass holders may schedule additional hours for an additional fee, upon approval. Please see “Evening Photo Shoot” below.

PRICING

Currently, for non-photography pass holders, EWBC charges regular entrance fees for all members of the party, including the photographer. *We are currently considering a rate change. Please provide the front desk with your contact information so that we can update you on the policy.*

The photography pass is \$75 for the year. Photography pass holders has free entry for his or her self, and up to 15 clients and assistance. If the photographer has more than 15 additional guest, they must pay \$3 per person fee regardless of age. There is no limit to the number of photo shoots per year, but photographers and their clients are limited to one photoshoot per day.

EVENING PHOTO SHOOT

Photography Pass Holders can reserve an evening photo shoot between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday, for an additional \$50 per hour, maximum 2 hours. Reservations must be requested at least 2 weeks in advance and are subject to approval.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center and its facilities are subject to weather variations and temporary closures. The Center will attempt to reschedule should a session need to be canceled or refund photography fees. Shooting dates may be adjusted in the event of inclement weather; any changes must be agreed upon by our office. For more information, please contact (956) 381-9922.

GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY POLICIES

The Edinburg World Birding Center restricts the use of props to certain areas in our grounds. Please contact our office for more information on allowed props and their designated areas. All props **must** be removed from the site.

The use of balloons is allowed, but photographers and their guests are prohibited from releasing them. The use of confetti is strictly prohibited

Drone photography is not permitted during operational hours. If interested in Drone photography after hours, please contact our office at (956) 381-9922 for consideration.

Moving or removing plants or structures that are part of the Wetlands is strictly prohibited.

No photographers, assistants or subjects may step in garden beds, on water features, inside ponds, or places other than on designated paths and grassy areas. Climbing or mounting equipment in trees or on buildings is not permitted.

All photo subjects must be fully and appropriately clothed. Swimsuit photo shoots are not permitted. Apparel changes are not allowed on the grounds, for any person above the age of 5. Please use restroom facilities located in the Interpretive Center or nearby Municipal Park to change.

All cords or wires must be placed and guarded in a way that doesn't alter the pathways and put Wetlands visitors at risk.

Photographers will be held accountable for their actions and those of clients, crew members and subjects if they damage Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center facilities and property.

RELATED RULES

Clients are encouraged to arrive camera-ready, as there are no dressing room facilities. On site restrooms can be used, but are only accessible 8 am to 5 pm, Monday – Saturday.

Display your permit prominently on your chest area or equipment.

Set up your shoot in a manner that does not impact visitors or disrupt events and maintenance.

Photo reservation inquiries: Loni Salinas, 956-381-9922

Media requests only: Marisa Oliva, 956-381-9922

Updated 6/1/17