Professional Photography and Videography Pass Guidelines
Snow Canyon State Park

Due to its stunning scenery Snow Canyon State Park is a popular location for professional portrait photography and videography. To manage the large volume of permit requests we receive, and to streamline scheduling for you and your clients, an annual Professional Photography pass is required. **Note:** One-time Special Use Permits are not issued for professional photography portrait sessions.

Annual Professional Photography passes are good for one year from month of purchase for a set number of shoots (see below) and are required for any hired photographer and/or videographer conducting portrait sessions in the canyon **(all shoots must be used prior to pass expiration)**. This includes professional photographers/videographers and their clients using the canyon for shoots that include weddings, engagements, bridals, family group photos, prom, senior photos or other posed portraiture for commercial gain. Amateurs receiving compensation (including donations and "trade") and acting in the role of a professional are also required to obtain an annual pass. Two separate tiers of passes are available for purchase:

Tier 1: $225. Allows up to 5 professional shoots per year. Additional shoots can be purchased.

Tier 2: $400. Allows up to 10 professional shoots per year. Additional shoots can be purchased.

Passes must be purchased by the photographer (not client) at least five days in advance of shoot. Pass sales and scheduling are handled via email. Passes cover up to eight people in a single vehicle and are good for professional outings only. In addition to purchasing an annual Professional Photography pass you are required to:

1. Complete the
    a. Terms and Conditions form (see Pages 2 and 3)
    b. "Leave No Trace Guidelines for Photography" form (Page 4).

    All forms will be kept on file at Park headquarters. Email completed forms to snowcanyon@utah.gov.

2. Schedule all shoots taking place on park property. To schedule a shoot, you must submit an-email request (snowcanyon@utah.gov) at least five-days prior to your outing. This allows us to track your use and/or notify you of any park closures or restrictions.

Please note:

1. Utah State Park Annual Passes cannot be used for any type of commercial activity.

2. Commercial shoots including movie shoots; television, print, or internet commercials; advertisements; or promotions for products or businesses require a Special Use Permit and do not fall under the above guidelines. Please e-mail park staff for more information.

Professional Photography and Videography Passes Terms and Conditions
Snow Canyon State Park

Please fill in your information below

Pass Holder Name:	
Business Name:	
Address:	
Phone #:	
E-mail Address:	
Website Address:	

Staff Use Only

Receipt # **Pass Expiration:** **Pickup OR Mail Date:** **Logged:**

Terms and Conditions

1. The photography pass is required for any location within park boundaries, including Whiterocks; Snow Canyon Scenic Overlook; Cougar Cliffs; Black Rocks; and Paradise Canyon/Chuckwalla. Please refer to the park brochure for a map of park boundaries.
2. All shoots must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved. Shoot requests must be submitted by email (snowcanyon@utah.gov) a minimum of five-days prior to the proposed outing. Email requests must include:
    a. Photographer name
    b. Shoot date
    c. Arrival and departure times
    d. Number of people and vehicles
    e. Proposed props
    f. The shoot location(s)
    g. The nature of the shoot (i.e. bridals, family portraits, etc).
3. The park reserves the right to deny any shoot request due to special events; trail closures; or exceptionally large number of requests for the same date and/or location. All approved shoots will be logged by park staff and deducted from your allocated quantity.
4. Weddings require a separate Special Use Permit (and must be obtained by the couple). Portrait shoots are not covered under this separate permit and still require scheduling.
5. Failure to schedule shoots may result in a citation or revocation of your pass.
6. Shoots are only permitted in areas open to the public, i.e. no special access privileges are granted with your pass.
7. In the event of cancellations (illness, weather, etc) notify the park by e-mail within 24 hours. Failure to provide the proper notice will result in the shoot not being credited back to your business and allocated quantity.
8. Props must be approved prior to shoot. “Toss” or “Release” items such as flower petals, confetti, gender reveal smoke bombs, etc. are prohibited.
9. The photography pass can only be used for professional purposes for the duration of your shoot. Personal recreational use is not permitted with pass.
10. Upon arrival, the vehicle pass will be clearly displayed from the rear-view mirror or on the dash. Failure to show proper pass may result in revocation of shoot privileges.

11. The supplied lanyard and small, holographic photography tag will be worn when shooting in the park. This will help distinguish you from other photographers as staff make routine patrols. The small holographic tag/lanyard does not cover vehicle entry and day use fees.
12. The pass is good for one vehicle (up to eight people per vehicle). **All additional vehicles are responsible for paying the current per vehicle day-use fee upon arrival.** If no attendant is available clients will use the self-pay station (cash recommended) and clearly display their envelope stub.
13. Parking is limited in the park - particularly during busy spring and fall periods or holidays. Your pass does not guarantee access, parking, or special privileges in the canyon. Plan your shoots accordingly.
14. Drones are prohibited except at the Snow Canyon Scenic Overlook. Additional approval is required.
15. All shoots are limited to park hours - 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. No use will occur outside these hours.
16. Pass is non-transferable.
17. Duplicate or replacement passes are not issued.
18. Commercial liability insurance is not required for professional portrait photography, however, both Utah State Parks and the Utah Division of Risk Management advise that you carry personal insurance in the event you or your clients are injured on park premises. Your safety and that of your clients is your responsibility.
19. Utah State Parks and the State of Utah assume no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to any equipment or belongings.
20. If you reach the maximum number of shoots allowed within your tier, you can purchase more shoots. All shoots must be used prior to the pass expiration date.
21. Failure to follow the Terms and Conditions **OR** unauthorized or improper use will result in termination of your shoot, and revocation of your annual pass and future shoot privileges in the park.
22. Failure to obtain the proper pass/permit may result in a $600 fine.

I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions:

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

Please e-mail all inquiries and shoot requests to: snowcanyon@utah.gov

Leave No Trace Guidelines for Photography
Snow Canyon State Park

Snow Canyon is a magical place. Hundreds of thousands of guests visit every year to hike the parks 38-plus miles of trails; camp; bike; take part in education programs; soak in the stunning scenery; and be inspired. In the past decade, the park has also become immensely popular as a wedding destination and with professional portrait photographers such as yourself. Providing outdoor opportunities is something we take seriously. We also take seriously the need to protect what makes Snow Canyon special - this is not only the scenery and geological features but the plants and animals that live in the park and need healthy resources for their survival. **Leave No Trace** is about being responsible, protecting nature, and leading by example. Please review (and check-off) the following Leave No Trace principles and help to preserve enjoyment of this outdoor space and awe-inspiring experience for current and future visitors. Return this form with your application.

- ☐ **Plan and Prepare:** Snow Canyon has a designated trail law meaning you and your clients need to stay on the mapped, designated trails. Avoid crushing plants or creating new paths and "trampled zones" by keeping you, your clients, and your equipment on the trails or parking lots. Ask park staff for guidance or scout the area before arriving with clients so you know where you can and can't shoot. Understand the regulations and stay informed about the fragile nature of Snow Canyon's ecosystem.

- ☐ **Set Expectations:** Shooting in Snow Canyon is a special experience. You are responsible for the safety and behavior of your clients. Before arriving at the park, please make certain your clients understand park laws, and the importance of being a responsible visitor so they don't make requests that put you in an awkward position or lead to the revocation of your pass.

- ☐ **Minimize Disturbance to Wildlife:**
  - Keep a respectful distance from animals and never attempt to disturb or manipulate them for a shot. Use telephoto lenses instead of approaching wildlife.
  - Follow the 25mph speed limit through the park. Snow Canyon is home to the federally threatened Mojave Desert tortoise. Be particularly alert during the tortoise active season (February 15 – November 30). If you see a tortoise in the road follow the "Drive Slow Watch for Tortoises" and "When to Move a Tortoise" sections at this link: https://stateparks.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2026/02/WEB-Snow-Canyon-Trail-Guide-Map-Brochure-2026-1.pdf
  - If dogs are included in your shoot they must be leashed and under control. All dog waste must be scooped, bagged, and binned.

- ☐ **Leave What You Find:** Refrain from moving or altering rocks, plants, or other natural features for the sake of composition. Keep the landscape as you found it for the next visitors.

- ☐ **Pack Out All Waste:** Carry out everything you bring in, including camera gear packaging, batteries, and personal trash. Never leave behind anything, even organic material like food scraps. "Toss" or "Release" items such as flower petals, confetti, gender reveal smoke bombs, etc. are prohibited.

- ☐ **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**: Share the space with others, keeping in mind that it is a shared natural experience. Avoid blocking paths or setting up equipment in ways that hinder others' enjoyment.

- ☐ **Respect Cultural and Historical Features:** Do not touch, stand on, or alter cultural or historic sites in any way for photography. Capture their beauty from a respectful distance.

_____	_____	_____
Print Photographer and Company Name	**Signature**	**Date**