

Tillicum Photography Club

Assignment #3 - Blur the Foreground

Motivation

One of the first problems you will encounter as a photographer is that the world doesn't stand still and wait for you to take a photo. Many interesting compositions are fleeting, so the photographer has to be somewhat opportunistic. Sometimes you will take a hundred photos and only get a handful of good ones.

This week we'll be capturing moving things. There are tons of interesting moving things around school, home, and parks: cyclists, people playing ultimate frisbee, cars driving past, squirrels dashing from tree to tree. Animals in general are delightfully uncooperative, so if you have a dog or cat, this might be a good week to take a photo of them running or jumping or chasing a toy.

The key difficulty in capturing moving objects is getting enough light. The shutter speed needs to be short enough to prevent motion blur. You usually compensate for this by using a large aperture and increasing ISO. However, you quickly encounter trade-offs. For example, increasing the aperture shortens the depth of field and makes precise focus more important (and challenging). Autofocus takes time and a slow autofocus system may not be able to keep up with the action you are trying to capture with your fast shutter speed, resulting in a missed shot. If you're able to set up the shot, one good trick is to pre-focus at the depth you're expecting, so that the photograph can be captured at the instant the object moves through the point of focus. As you can see, capturing a unique photograph often involves manipulating several of the camera's control systems at once!

Instructions

Take some photos **that meet the requirements listed below**, and email them to the club's gmail address:

1. Subject line should be "**Assignment #3 - Blur Foreground**"
2. Add **comments** within the email explaining how you took the photo
3. Include any relevant **camera settings** you used and why
4. Mention any **image processing** done to the photograph afterwards

This Assignment - Show action by blurring the foreground

Take at least one photo that uses motion blur to give a sense of how your subject moves. The main subject of the photograph should be motion blurred, but the background should be sharp.