



Greetings,

Speakers Janet Nelson and Mike Katzovitz present nighttime and indoor low-light photography courses at this year's conference. These are well-received, hands-on courses sure to benefit any law enforcement personnel who document crime scenes through photography. They, in themselves, are worth the conference price! If you have registered for the conference and intend on attending these courses, the information below is vital for ensuring an optimum learning experience. I suggest printing it for reference. 😊

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If you document crime scenes, we hope that you will plan to attend the night photography class on Wednesday night!

The best way to learn low-light photography is to actually do it so this will be an all hands-on class. You'll be working with your cameras for the entire class. We're providing a handout but no PowerPoint.

We will meet between 1800-1830 at Robbins Island Park, about 2 miles from the hotel, east side parking lot near the playground equipment. ([Directions from the Willmar Conference Center](#)) As people arrive, we will set-up tripods, cameras, etc. and do photos as the light fades, including a few sunset photos. We'll be practicing long exposures with available light, flash, and flashlight until around 2100 when we'll return to the hotel to make some available light photos of the parking lot and buildings. Then we'll move inside to the president's reception where there will be food and beverages available for class participants.

Due to the variety of camera styles, we are unable to provide compatible flash units or compatible cable releases because nothing is "one type works everywhere" anymore. HOWEVER, we will have a few extra tripods*, DSLR

cameras*, flash units*, and some hokey homemade shutter release devices for people to use so even if you can't scrape up everything on the list, bring what you can.

*First come, first served for "free rentals"

This equipment will also be used for the indoor low light class offered on Friday where we will work on lighting large indoor areas. We also have some fun lights to experiment with too!

Here are the items you will want to bring to get the most from the class;

1. **DSLR or P&S camera** than can be set to a MANUAL mode for long exposures of 15 seconds minimum. (Sorry but cells phones and inexpensive P&S cameras just don't have the features necessary for this type of photography). Not sure about your camera? Call us! Janet [651-270-6712](tel:651-270-6712) Mike [651-793-7046](tel:651-793-7046)
2. **A tripod**. Any tripod is better than no tripod but one that is sturdy enough to support the weight of your camera without blowing across the parking lot is best. If you are making a purchase, call if you want suggestions.
3. **A detachable flash**. If you don't have/can't buy a detachable flash designed to work with your camera but you have an old flash from an old camera, bring it along with two sets of batteries. You can't attach it to your camera but we'll show you how to use it during a long exposure to light your scene. (Using an old flash is applicable whether you will be using a DSLR or P&S camera)
4. **A bright LED flashlight** that has a full charge (especially if you use only a pop-up flash). An additional light that isn't very bright is nice to have to see your camera controls in the dark.
5. **Batteries for camera and flash**. Long exposures take a lot of battery power for both the camera and the flash so you'll need at least **one extra battery** for your camera and an extra set of AAs for any flash units you bring. If you need to purchase a second camera battery before class, off brand Li-Ion camera batteries like Watson and Promaster are pretty good now and much less expensive than batteries with a camera brand name. Don't forget to bring your battery charger!

6. **A remote shutter release**** that will allow you to lock your shutter open without touching the camera. Most of these are electronic. If your camera shipped with a remote, it might be there. Off-brand models found on Amazon are relatively inexpensive. Search for 'remote shutter release for...[your camera make/model]. If your camera has an IR receiver, some smart phones contain an IR transmitter that can control your camera using a free app.

**Otherwise, we will provide you with your very own homemade version that you can keep.

7. **A media card** either empty or with space for at least 100-200 photos.

Looking forward to seeing you at the class and at the conference!

Janet Nelson and Mike Katzovitz

