Plan your photography/video needs:

Review your Marketing Plan – What locations/events are your priorities?

How will you use these images? – Publications, web sites and media/press releases? Videos for presentations, YouTube, trade show booth, social media?

Pull images you like from publications as reference.

Bring your own talent/models. These can be people you know. Any time you have faces in your photos you need a signed release from that person.

Hire a professional photographer

Do your own Photo-Scout:

To help plan your photo shoot, take some photos of your community and events. Print them out and review - everything looks very different in a photo. Look for best time of day - where is the sun, is there a dark shadow, look for trash, leaves, litter, ugly mail or paper boxes, untidy shop windows, closed sign on the door. Talk with shop owners for downtown images – you want active images showing shoppers, store owners, store fronts, night shots with lights on, “open” signs and shoppers/diners.

TIP: Your hometown hosts are a good resource for talent/models
Develop a photo/video shot list:

What locations do you want photographed. Prioritize your list. You may not be able to afford as many as you want.

Time of day for each location –

The light is best early morning and late afternoon (golden hour). Unless you are photographing inside or photographing an event or festival that has set hours, do not plan to shoot mid-day.

Talent/models –

How many people do you want in each shot, ages, and ethnicity? Even when photographing an event it is best to have talent with you that you can control & easily obtain signed releases. Models can be people you know. Pick people who resemble the people you want to attract.

Styling - type of clothing

Always dress slightly up and not too trendy, khakis and collared shirts instead of well-worn jeans and message t-shirts, casual shoes instead of tennis shoes or flip flops (except for sporting events or beach photos), no skimpy bathing suits or low cut blouses, no logos.

Sports activities – always keep in mind, helmets and proper safety equipment

Seasons – plan ahead for next year

When photographing a location that does not obviously show a season, take a change of clothes for talent, or add sweaters or jackets.

The value of talent in your images.

Above photos were taken at the same event by the same photographer. The photo on the right, with talent the photographer could direct, is a much stronger image. It draws the viewers’ eye and communicates quickly that this couple is enjoying their day at a wine festival. All the caption really needs to tell the viewer is the location of this wine festival.
Legal Stuff:

Develop terms & conditions of usage rights before talking with photographer: Include usage rights for your community/organization, the site, VTC and other marketing partners.

Develop model release: Sample attached.

Minors (under age 18): Model release must be signed by a parent, not grandparent, aunt or uncle, or neighbor.

Events/Festivals – Work with your community planners to have photo release language on tickets, or registration forms, on websites promoting an event. Any time you have faces in your photos you need a signed release from that person.

Example Blanket Release:
I understand that I may be videotaped, audio recorded, and/or photographed during this event and that (community and VTC) may use this media for any and all purposes without compensation of any kind to me and without further notice to me or permission from me.

Image requirements:

The ideal photo (usually done by photographers) needs to be at least 3000X 3750 pixels or an 11 X 17 at 300 dpi (dots per inch); RGB color and saved in a TIFF format or a JPEG with a 5:1 compression (basically a 20M+ photograph that saves to 4M when compressed.)

The realistic photo is a 8 X 12 at 300 dpi; RGB color and saved as a TIFF or JPEG.

Website only photo is 4 X 6 at 72 dpi; RGB color and saved as a JPEG.

Unacceptable photography is anything lifted off a website; scanned from a previous printed image in a magazine; or does not have permission for usage. Color photography is preferred.

All high quality images can be reduced down to fit any purpose, so the higher resolution the original image, the more uses it may have.

Video Requirements:

The ideal video (usually done by photographers/videographers) needs to be at least 1920 X 1080p (16:9) [high definition video]. The video codec should be H.264 or MPEG-4 (please no intermediate or apply-only formats). The preferred format is .mov. 4K or 6K resolution video is even better!

TIP: Ask your photographer to provide both horizontal and vertical images of same scene.
Ask your photographer to back up a few steps and give you plenty of extra background for cropping purposes (see below)
Put it in writing for a photographer to price: Sample of a creative brief attached.

This helps you and the photographer know exactly what is asked of them. If the price is more than you expected, ask the photographer where you could save money.

Hire a professional photographer!

Ask for referrals and check photographers’ websites to review their work.

Develop a naming system and catalog/filing system for your images:

Write photo captions to accompany images when sent to media and apply metadata. Obtain and file signed releases for property and talent. Include photographers name in credits. Samples attached.

TIP: Use the nearest post office address as the location of your photo to maintain consistent location cataloging.

Share your images with your local business owner(s) and VTC
Description: Christmas tree hunting – cut your own. (agri-tourism)
Several images of venue, with people. Show family enjoying the day- parents and one or two children (parents 35 – 40 age range, children, age 10 or under). Photos will need enough background to identify the location/activity. Include talent fees in pricing.

Attractions to be Photographed:
Family fun outing, winter gear, hats, gloves - cut your own tree. Selecting tree, carrying tree; Selecting wreaths, carrying wreath. If available at venue: Wagon ride to trees, kid with cider cup. Nearby options:
http://www.claybrookefarm.com/Services.html
http://www.chesterfieldberryfarm.com/index.htm

Leatherwood Tree Farm - no web address
T. Garth Nelson
3760 Factory Mill Road
Dabneys, Virginia 23102
Home Phone 804-272-6158
tgarthnelson@comcast.net

Photographer:
Date: November 2016

Usage: please refer to attached Special Terms and Conditions.

Image size/format requirements:
Publications: 1 – 8.5” x 11” Vertical and Horizontal and allow for bleed
2 – 11” x 17” Horizontal with bleed
Allow option that positions subject to left or right of center for use in two page spread in order to keep subject out of gutter
Web: 3 – 12” X 4”
4 – 15” X 4”

Video size/format requirements:
Size: 1920 x 1080 (16:9), 4K preferred
Codec: H.254/MPEG-4 (please no intermediate or other apple-only formats)
Format: .mov
Audio: Not required for b-roll, otherwise minimum 2 channel, 48 KHz

Delivery: Dec 30, 2016
Discs and hard drives should be marked and identified with name of shoot and date. All model releases to be delivered with photos. Deliver to:

Sarah Hauser, SHauser@Virginia.org, 804-545-5515
1. All digital media created, developed and/or produced under this Digital Media Brief shall become the sole property of VTC. VTC has unlimited usage rights to all such digital media for an unlimited time to promote Virginia destinations at no additional cost to VTC. (Note: Digital media is defined, for this purpose, as any document or file delivered to VTC under this Digital Media Brief)

2. Digital media may be used by VTC, local tourism offices, the Virginia Film Office, Virginia State Parks and Virginia state agencies and any other entity VTC deems appropriate in promotional publications, websites, advertising, editorial, advertorial, press kits, video multimedia, social media, the official Virginia state roadmap and any other use VTC deems appropriate at no additional cost to VTC.

3. VTC has the right to use photography without restriction.

4. Photographer shall hire and pay for models as needed for the project and provide VTC with signed model releases for any images that include a recognizable face. These releases shall give the VTC and their representatives and/or assigns the right and permission to publish, without charge, the digital media.

5. Photographer will provide VTC with signed property releases when necessary, as determined by the VTC, for any imagery that includes a recognizable destination. These releases shall give the VTC and their representatives and/or assigns the right and permission to publish, without charge, the digital media.

6. Photographer and/or model(s) may use photography in their portfolio. Any other use of the digital media by photographer or model(s) shall be approved by VTC in writing prior to use.

7. Photographer may not sell, lease or otherwise convey ownership or authorization for use of digital media created, developed and/or produced on behalf of VTC to any other entity without explicit approval from VTC in writing.

8. VTC is exempt from taxation as a public body corporate and as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

9. Payment Terms - All services provided shall be performed to the satisfaction of VTC and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws ordinances, rules, policies and regulations. Payment for services will be made thirty (30) days after receipt of a proper invoice for the amount of payment due, or thirty days after receipt of the goods or services, whichever is later. This provision shall not affect offers of discounts for payment in less than 30 days, however. The following shall be deemed to be the date of payment: the date of postmark in all cases where payment is made by mail.
Photo and Video Release and Consent Form

By signing this release I hereby authorize Virginia Tourism Authority (Virginia Tourism Corporation) to use the accompanying photograph(s) and/or video(s) in perpetuity to advertise, publicize and/or promote Virginia without further consent by myself or other persons. Permission is also granted for the use of my image(s) and/or video(s) on a non-exclusive basis throughout the world on all forms of media and on the internet by VTC, identified industry partners, affiliated Commonwealth of Virginia agencies and political subdivisions, or any other entity VTC deems appropriate.

I hereby warrant that I am the creator of the accompanying photograph(s) and/or video(s), and have the full legal capacity to give VTC unlimited usage rights. In the event I am not the creator of the accompanying image(s) and/or video(s), I have attached written consent from the creator or have attached a copy of the contract with a professional wherein usage rights may be extended to VTC.

Describe the photograph(s) and/or video(s) including the location and/or event:

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Print Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip Code: __________
Telephone: __________________________ Email: __________________________
PHOTO AND VIDEO
RELEASE AND CONSENT FORM

For good and valuable consideration received, the sufficiency of which is herein acknowledged, and by signing this release, I hereby authorize Virginia Tourism Authority, d/b/a Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) a public body corporate and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, its legal representatives, and it successors and/or assigns, to use my photograph(s) and/or video image(s) (the "Content") in perpetuity to advertise, publicize and/or promote Virginia without further consent by myself or other persons, and for no further right to additional consideration or accounting. Permission is also granted for the use of my image on a non-exclusive basis throughout the world on all forms of media and the internet by VTC, its legal representatives, and its successors and/or assigns, VTC identified industry partners, and affiliated Commonwealth of Virginia agencies and political subdivisions, or any other entity VTC deems appropriate.

I hereby waive any right to the Content and further waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product(s) and the advertising, publicity or promotional copy that may be used in connection therewith or the use of which it may be applied.

I hereby warrant that I am of full age and have the full legal capacity and right to contract in my own name. I have read the above authorization, release, and agreement, prior to its execution, and I am fully familiar with the contents thereof. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, successors and/or assigns. I agree that this release is irrevocable, worldwide, and perpetual, and will be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Describe the Photograph(s) and/or Video(s) including the location and date:

__________________________________________  Date: ______________________

Signature: __________________________________________  Print Name: _______________________

Address: __________________________________________  Age: ______________________

City: __________________________________________  State: ________  Zip Code: ______________________

Telephone: ____________________________________  Email: ______________________

If model is underage (under 18):

I, the parent or legal guardian of the model, have read the above authorization, release and agreement and I am fully familiar with the contents thereof. I give my consent and agree to the uses as stated above.

Signature: __________________________________________  Print Name: _______________________

Model’s image goes here.
PROPERTY PHOTO AND VIDEO
RELEASE AND CONSENT FORM

For good and valuable consideration received, the sufficiency of which is herein acknowledged, and by signing this release, I hereby authorize Virginia Tourism Authority, d/b/a Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) a public body corporate and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, its legal representatives, and its successors and/or assigns, to use images of my Property (the "Content") in perpetuity to advertise, publicize and/or promote Virginia without further consent by myself or other persons, and for no further right to additional consideration or accounting. Permission is also granted for the use of my property’s image on a non-exclusive basis throughout the world on all forms of media and the internet by VTC, its legal representatives, and its successors and/or assigns, VTC identified industry partners and affiliated Commonwealth of Virginia agencies and political subdivisions.

I hereby waive any right to the Content and further waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product(s) and the advertising, publicity or promotional copy that may be used in connection therewith or the use of which it may be applied.

I hereby warrant that I am the owner of this property and am at least 18 years of age. I have the full legal capacity and right to execute this release and grant the rights herein with respect to the Property. I have read the above authorization, release and agreement, prior to its execution, and I am fully familiar with the contents thereof. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, successors and/or assigns. I agree that this release is irrevocable, worldwide, and perpetual, and will be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Describe the Property including the location, date and photographer:

__________________________________________  Date: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________

Print Name: ____________________________________________  Age: ________________________

__________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________  State: ________  Zip Code: ________________________

Telephone: ______________________________________  Email: __________________________________

Property Address: ______________________________________

__________________________________________
For Corporate Ownership

Name of Corporation: ______________________________________

Employee Signature: ______________________________________

Employee Printed Name: ______________________________________

Date: ____________________________

Property image goes here.