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Free smartphone photo workshop at Morristown National Historical Park

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A great photo can be made by those who learn to "see" differently.

How to take better photos with your smartphone will be the focus of a free Aug. 3 workshop at Morristown Historical Park.

Participants, who may also bring point-and-shoot and other cameras, will take an exclusive photo tour of the Ford Mansion, one of three Revolutionary War sites at this United States national historical park, also the site of Jockey Hollow and Fort Mifflin.

"The Art of Photography" workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It includes instruction by photographer and author Xiomaro, who was commissioned to create a photographic exhibit and booklet on the Ford Mansion, which served as George Washington's headquarters during the war.

The fact that smartphones are often on hand and easy to use has resulted in an abundance of shared photos, says Xiomaro (pronounced "SEE-oh-MAH-ro").

"Almost 100 million photos are posted to Instagram alone -- every day," he says. But convenience and ease aren't what makes good photographs.

"The secret to better photographs is not in the camera, it's in applying the principles of seeing used by artists for centuries," he notes. His workshop will cover five key artistic principles, illustrated with slides of photographs and paintings.

Xiomaro will then lead the group to walk the park grounds and George Washington's headquarters to create unique images using his workshop techniques.

The goal is to make photography accessible by minimizing the technical know-how that is often a barrier, he says. "I've seen expensive DSLRs set on automatic because their complexity is overwhelming." Through the workshop, some will become better prepared to eventually handle f-stops, ISOs and other technical camera settings.

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Space is limited for the free workshop, the first of its kind at [Morristown National Historical Park](#), 30 Washington Place in Morristown. Registration is required by calling Jude Pfister at (973) 539-2016, x204.

Participants need only bring their fully-charged smartphone or camera with plenty of available storage space for the new photos that will be created. Comfortable walking shoes, snacks and a portable USB phone charger or spare batteries are recommended.

Xiomaro's photography has been covered by The New York Times, CBS Eyewitness News, The Star Ledger and News 12. His photography has been exhibited at Harvard University, Fraunces Tavern Museum, as well as galleries and public spaces. He is author of a book on Connecticut's Weir Farm National Historic Site, which features photography he created using principles he will teach during the upcoming workshop. For more information, visit [Xiomaro.com](#).



Photographer and author Xiomaro

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