



Mercer Botanic Gardens

Photography Guidelines

Thank you for selecting Mercer as the beautiful backdrop for your photography session.

Like all guests, photographers and their clients are valued. For everyone's safety and enjoyment, we request photographers follow the below guidelines set forth by Mercer Botanic Gardens.

All professional photographers with clients **MUST read these guidelines and sign in the binder at the Visitor Center before every photo shoot.**

All visitors, including professional photographers and non-professional groups larger than five individuals, must comply with the Rules and Regulations for County Parks in Harris County, Texas ("Rules"), which were approved and adopted by the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, on August 11, 2015. These rules can be viewed online at www.hcp4.net/Policies under the Parks section.

All photographers and guests should adhere to the following guidelines, which are specific to Mercer Botanic Gardens.

ALLOWED in Mercer Botanic Gardens:

- Photographers may use hand-held cameras with attached flash and a single tripod only.
- Visitors to Mercer Botanic Gardens (east side of Aldine Westfield) may bring in small, hand-held objects for photographs, such as a stuffed animal or a bouquet. Do not attach anything to plants or structures. Blankets may be placed on lawns.

NOT ALLOWED in Mercer Botanic Gardens:

- Use of hand-held or tripod mounted flashes, soft boxes, reflectors, diffusers, external light sources, ground-based equipment, or similar is prohibited, as is placing equipment and subjects in any plant bed.
- Proper attire required. Swimwear, lingerie, boudoir and/or nude photography are strictly prohibited. Only the blue restroom building is available for clothes changing. Pop-up changing tents are not allowed.

- Clothing and personal items must be kept in model's possession. Mercer staff is not responsible for unattended items.
- Party and photography related props that are prohibited include but are not limited to: piñatas, balloons, confetti, rice, silly string, glitter, and items designed to pop, break and/or shatter. Photo props including full-size mirrors, chairs, tables, oversize objects, clothing racks, and objects of similar size and description are also prohibited.
- Stay on the walkways, trails, or lawn areas. Do not block pathway access for other visitors to Mercer, and stay out of wooded, planted, bark and pine-straw mulched areas. Climbing on trees, fountains, or other structures is prohibited.
- Do not move garden furniture, ornaments, signage, or plant labeling. Do not remove flowers, insects, or other wildlife. Do not mark or carve into plants, structures, wood, or any Harris County Precinct 4 property.
- Limousines, coaches, and oversize multi-passenger vehicles may drop passengers off at the front gate but then park in the lot adjacent to and south of Baldwin Boettcher Library until passengers are ready for pick-up. The parking lot must be accessible to all guests.
- Professional videography and other special requests must be approved by the Garden Director. Coordinate details with Mercer's administrative staff at 713-274-4160.

**Please note: You may be asked to leave Mercer if you
or your party fail to adhere to these guidelines.**

We hope your photo session is a success and you enjoy the ambiance and beauty of the gardens.

*In appreciation for the use of the gardens, please consider a donation to our philanthropic partner,
The Mercer Society, to help support and enhance the gardens.*

*Mail donations to:
The Mercer Society, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble, TX 77338*