



# Yale Alumni

## Some Photo Tips for Great YDOS Shots!

We are looking for as many truly dynamic photographs as possible from YDOS sites around the world! These will be used to help celebrate your work, and to inspire others.

While it's nice to take group photos of participants lined up with a Yale banner, action shots of YDOS volunteers at work capture the essence of the day.

Some notes to consider:

- 1) Take a little time to prepare the shot in advance. Scope out the location of your shot before hand and think ahead about how you will pose people and frame your shot. Make sure everyone you want in the shot knows you want them a few minutes ahead of time.
- 2) Pay attention to the location. Choose a place where there is enough light and no distractions in the background. Avoid shots in front of windows where the flash might reflect back.
- 3) Capture shots of volunteers in action. Whether it's helping build a house, tutoring children, cleaning a park – take photographs that show the work and the workers.
- 4) Take multiple shots. Consider switching your camera to continuous shoot mode and shoot in short bursts of shots. Often, the second or third shots give a group that looks a little less posed and little more relaxed.
- 5) Get in close. The closer you can get (without cutting some members out of the shot!) the better – you'll get more detail of people, which makes the picture pop.
- 6) Pose the group. While you don't want to detract from people doing their work, you should not be afraid to pose some great action shots – remember, these will help document the work, celebrate the volunteers, and inspire others.
- 7) Pay attention to the lighting. In order to get great detail, you need enough light. If the main source of light is behind the group, think about using flash.
- 8) Don't be afraid to take control. Talk to the group, let them know what you want them to do, motivate them to smile. And remember to smile yourself – it sets the tone!
- 9) Get up higher if you need to. Especially for large group shots, you might want to elevate yourself on a chair or on a ladder.
- 10) Use an assistant. If you have a large group to photograph, it can be useful to have someone helping you out to organize the group.

Please upload your Yale Day of Service photos at <https://yaledayofservice.org/share-your-experience>.