Photographing Waterfalls

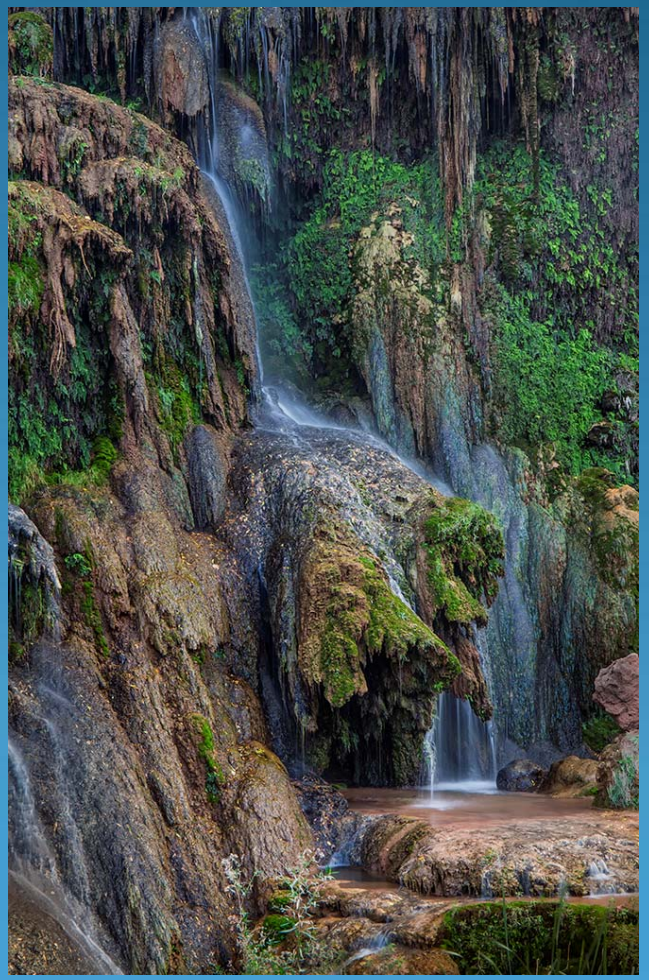
Presentation by Pete Scifres
to the Thousand Oaks Photo Group
Monday, November 5, 2018

Contents

- Why Photograph Waterfalls?
- What Equipment is Needed?
- Which Filter(s) are Needed?
- What Makes a Good Waterfall Image?
- What Shutter Speed to Use?
- What Camera Setup?
- When to Take Waterfall Pictures?
- Where to Take Waterfall Pictures?

Why Photograph Waterfalls?

- They are pretty
- Gets you outdoors
- Can be striking, impactful photo subjects



What Equipment is Needed?

- Camera body and lens
- Tripod
- Cable release?
- Filter, to reduce amount of light falling on sensor, to slow water speed

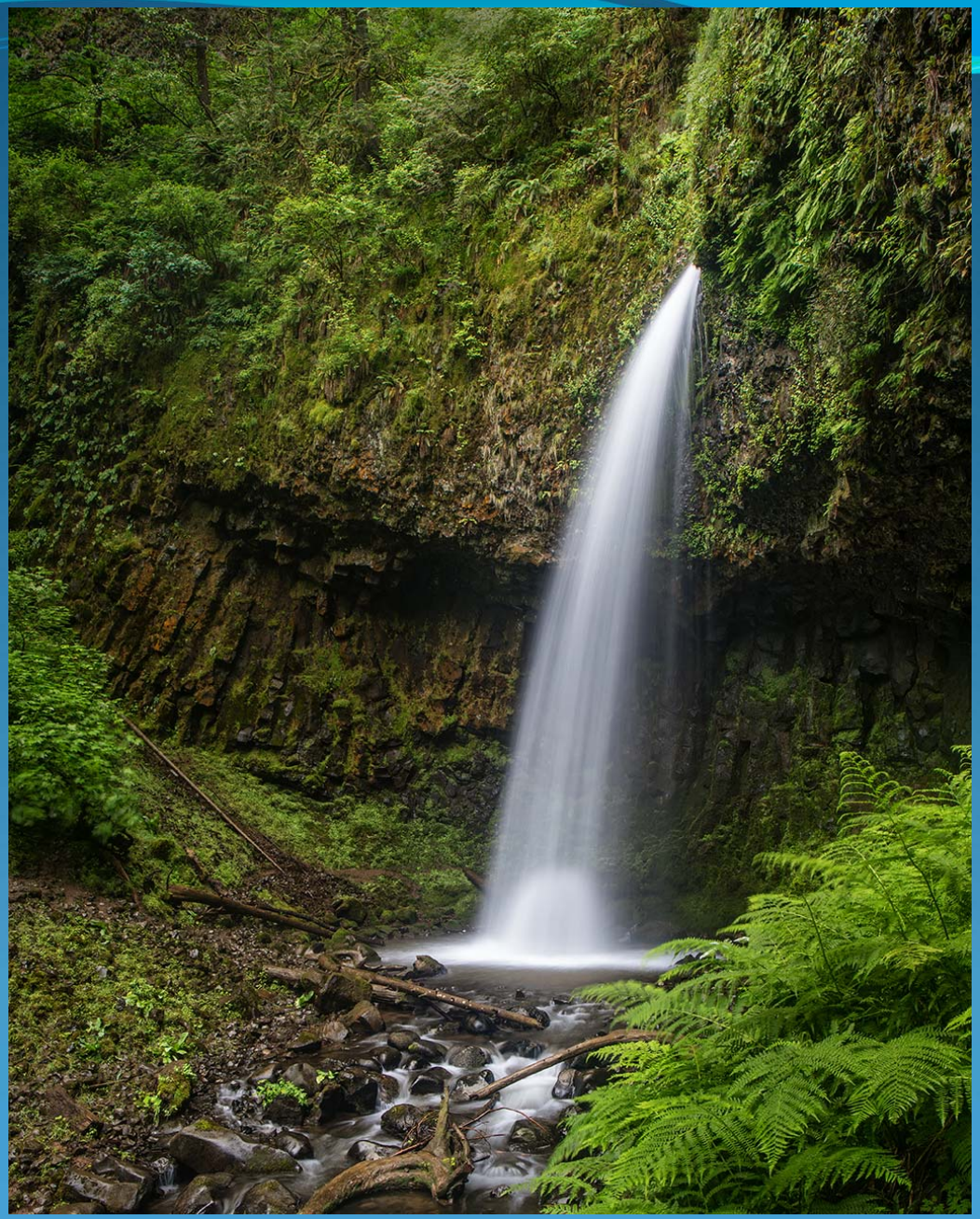
Which Filter?

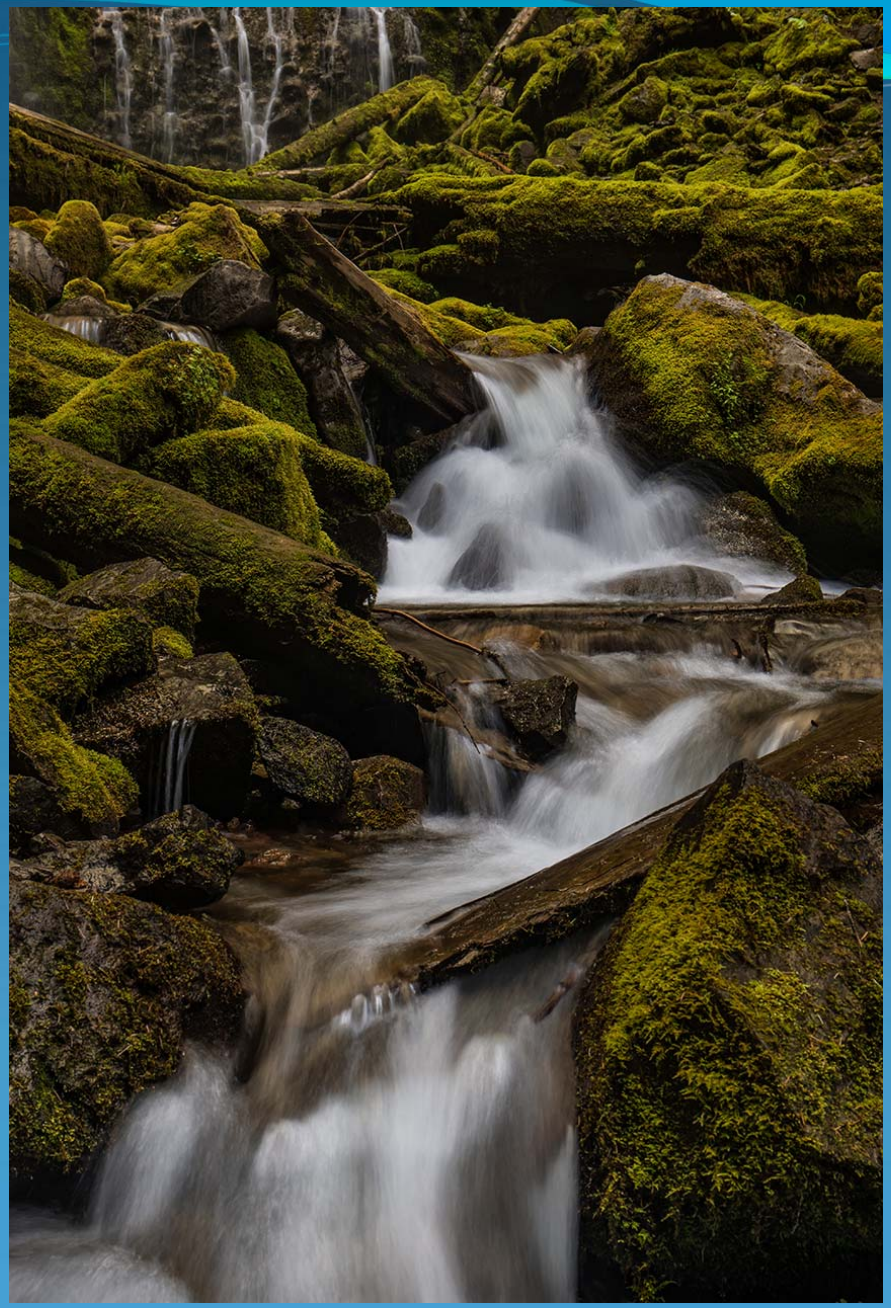
- Polarizer
- Neutral density filter ND8.0 = 3X
- Variable neutral density filter

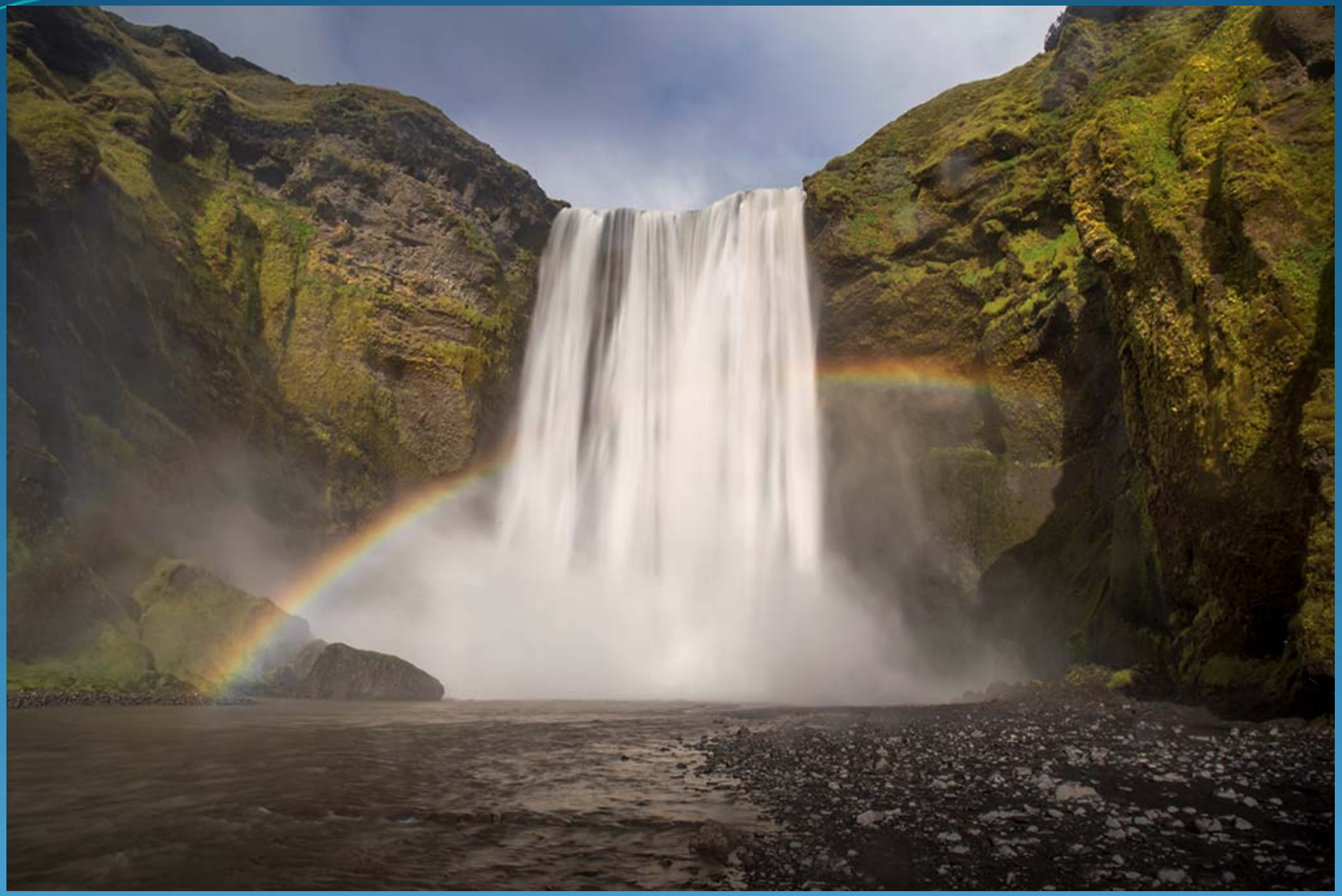
What Makes a Good Waterfall Image?

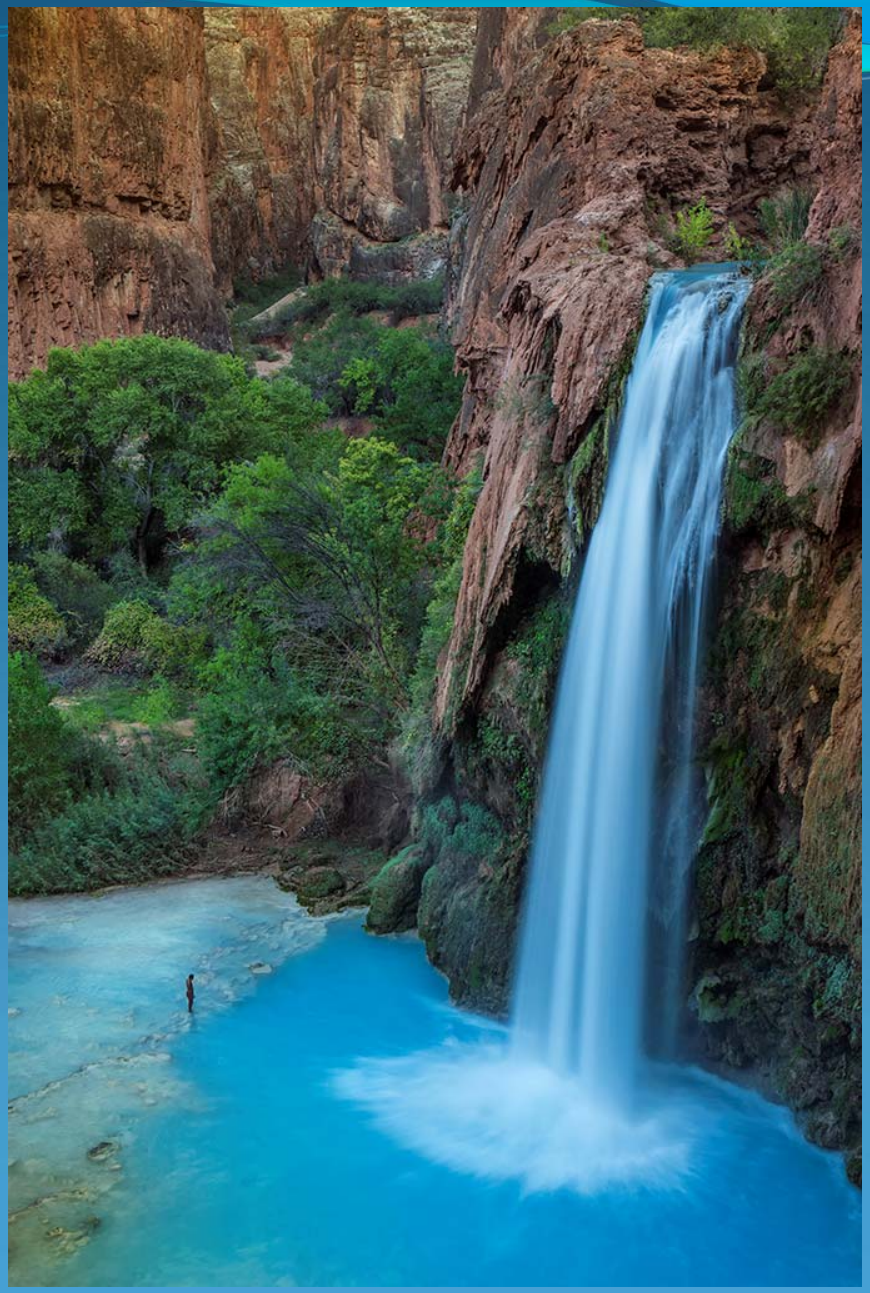
- A good waterfall
  - No obstructions
  - Clear water
  - No moving vegetation

- Effective composition
- Strong secondary element
- Ideally top and bottom not cutoff





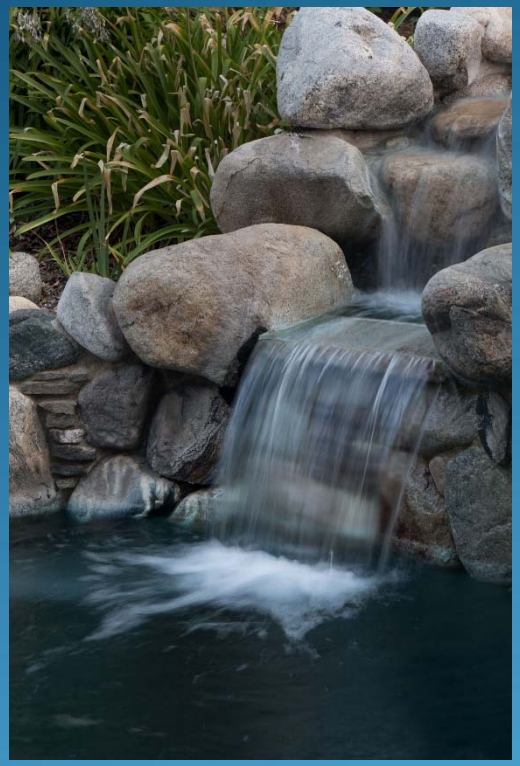




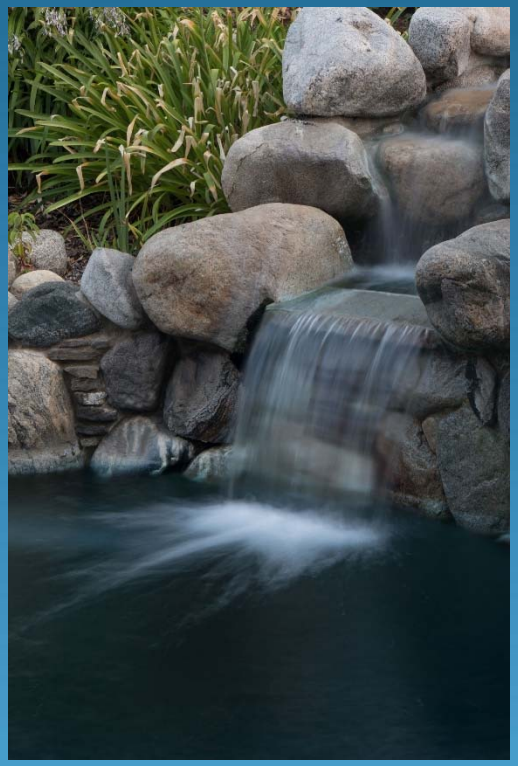
Don’t Overlook….

- B&W
- Micro waterfalls

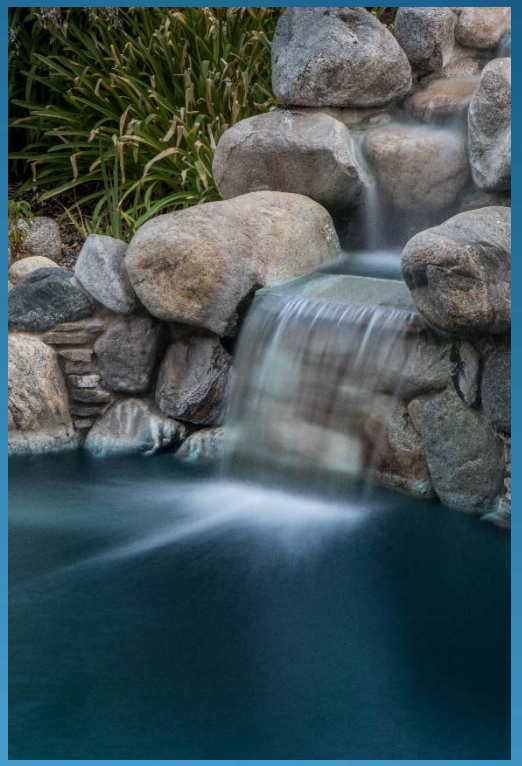
What Shutter Speed?



0.25 Seconds



1.0 Seconds



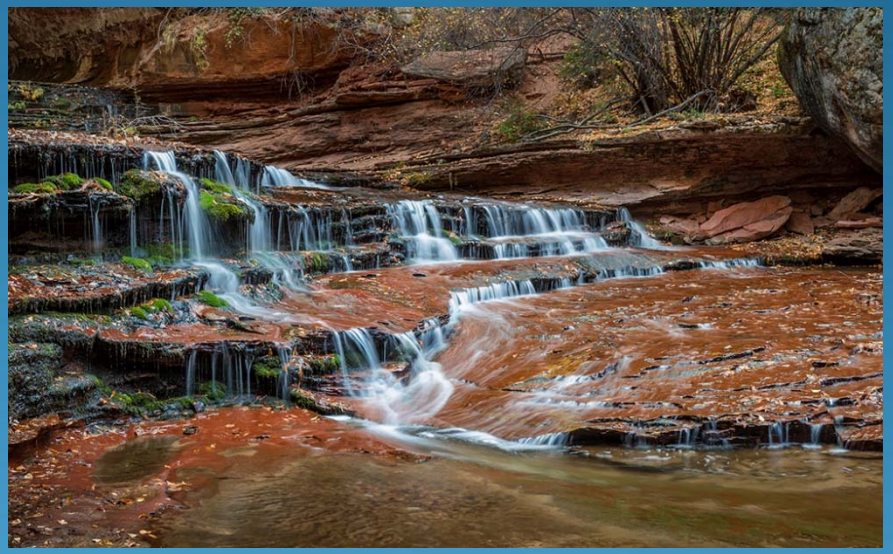
6.0 Seconds

Camera Setup?

- Shutter priority mode, Tv, etc.
- ISO 100
- Somewhat narrow aperture, F11 ish
- Shutter speed is up to your esthetics

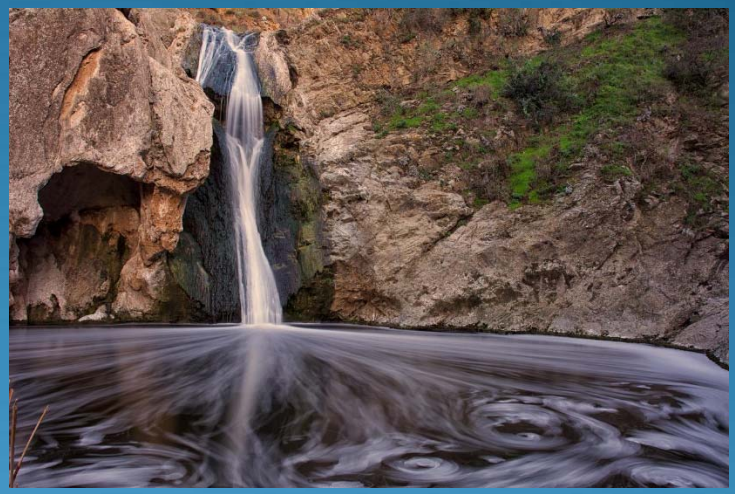
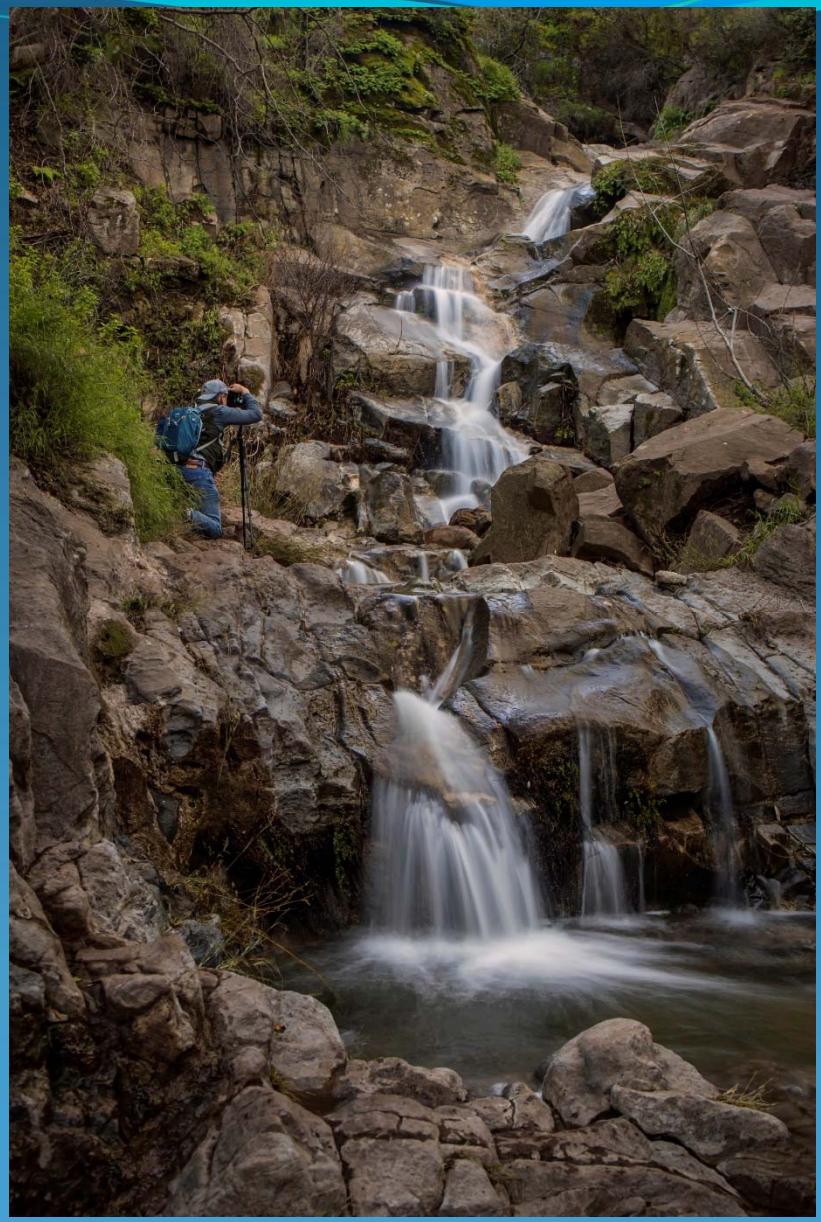
When to Take Waterfall Images?

- Early or late
- Overcast weather



Where to Take Waterfall Images?

- Wildwood
- Danielson monument trail
- Solstice Canyon
- Rose Valley (north of Ojai)
- Big Sur
- Eastern Sierras – Yosemite
- Oregon/Washington
- Arizona – Havasupai Canyon



Next Steps?