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February 14, 2013

Dear Friends,

This week we are sharing with you some sample guidelines on how to compose a great beneficiary story. The resource below (which you can also see in the attachment with pictures) describes how to design an interview with girls specifically, however, you can also adapt these guidelines for interviews with boys.

This tool comes to us from the Nike Foundation. We wanted to share it with you!

**Firelight is also open for Letters of Inquiry in Tanzania.** Please see the content below for details.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Letters of Inquiry) Firelight Foundation - Organizations Improving Learning Outcomes for Children in Tanzania

(Call for Applications) TechWomen Seeks Women in the STEM Field to Participate in Program

(Resource) How to Compose a Great Beneficiary Story

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## **(Call for Letters of Inquiry) Firelight Foundation - Organizations Improving Learning Outcomes for Children in Tanzania**

If your organization is a charitable organization working to improve learning outcomes for pre-primary and primary school children in TANZANIA, Firelight Foundation invites you to send a letter of inquiry and provide us with basic information about your organization. We will give particular priority to organizations working in the Moshi/Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya, and Morogoro regions. We will accept applications from outside of those regions.

Under this funding, we seek to identify organizations that are focused on improving children's learning by creatively engaging family and community to help children to succeed in school, while also building a stronger relationship between what is happening in-school, outside of school, and what happens at home. Over a period of three years, Firelight will work closely with organizations to demonstrate the

effectiveness of their innovative approaches to improve learning outcomes. Firelight will facilitate adoption of the most effective approaches among a network of community-based organizations.

Please submit your letter of inquiry by February 18, 2013. Please forward all letters of inquiry via mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Firelight Foundation  
740 Front Street, Suite 380  
Santa Cruz, California 95060 USA

Phone +1 831 429 8750  
Facsimile: +1 831 429 2036  
Email: [loi@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:loi@firelightfoundation.org)

Please forward this to any organization you think is eligible. The full guidelines for the letter of inquiry can be found here: [http://www.firelightfoundation.org/files/1513/5829/7843/Firelight LOI guidelines TANZANIA - final.pdf](http://www.firelightfoundation.org/files/1513/5829/7843/Firelight_LOI_guidelines_TANZANIA_-_final.pdf)

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### (Call for Applications) TechWomen Seeks Women in the STEM Field to Participate in Program

Eligible TechWomen participants are women who are engaged or rising in professional careers that require significant expertise and knowledge of STEM fields and/or innovative application of these skills, and who already are –or show promise of being—role models for women and girls.

TechWomen is accepting applications for the 2013 program from women who are permanent residents of Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, the Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

### 2013 TechWomen Eligibility Requirements

An applicant must:

- Be a woman with a minimum of two years of full-time professional experience in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and/or a career requiring significant expertise/knowledge/application of technology;
- Have a university degree;
- Be proficient in written and spoken English;
- Demonstrate a willingness to participate in exchange programs, welcome opportunities for mentoring and new partnership development, and exhibit confidence and maturity;
- Be citizens or permanent residents of Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, the Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Yemen or Zimbabwe at the time of application, and

while participating in the program;

- Not have applied for an immigrant visa to the United States, or participated in a visa lottery in the past five years;

- Be able to obtain a U.S. visa;

- Not hold U.S. Citizenship or be a U.S. legal permanent resident.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Have demonstrated themselves as emerging leaders in STEM fields;

- Have limited or no prior experience in the United States;

- Have a record of voluntary or public service in their communities;

- Have demonstrated entrepreneurialism and commitment to innovation.

Application deadline:

The TechWomen program will cover travel and housing costs and provide a per diem for all selected participants.

If you have questions about the program, or the application process, please contact us at [techwomen@ie.org](mailto:techwomen@ie.org) or Tel: +1-415-362-6520 (Ext. 257)

Deadline for Submission: February 22, 2013

For more go to: <http://www.techwomen.org/how-to-apply/>

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As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).

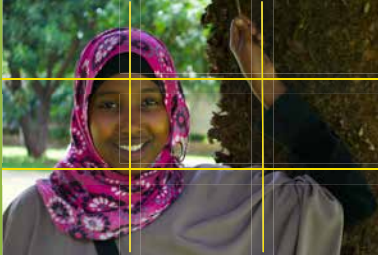
**For more information contact:**

Firelight Foundation  
740 Front Street, Suite 380  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA  
[www.firelightfoundation.org](http://www.firelightfoundation.org)  
+1 831-429- 8750

# Photos

Here are some tips and tricks to get professional images from your point-and-shoot camera.

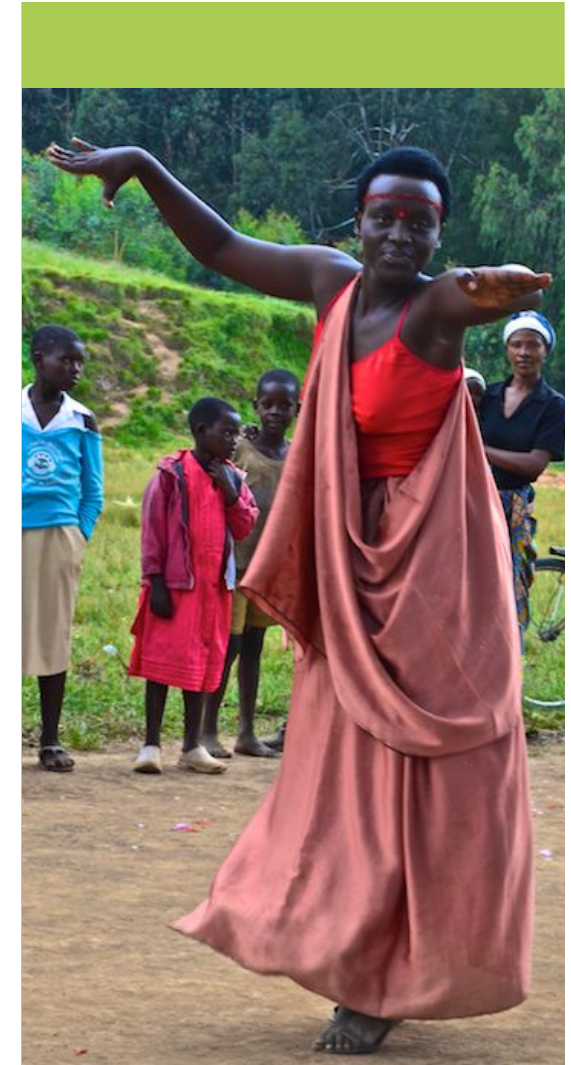
- Rule of thirds: An image should be imagined as divided into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two equally spaced vertical lines, and that important compositional elements should be placed along these lines or their intersections.



- Staging: Have the girls show you, or act out, what they do on an average day. Do they fix their hair? Wash their clothes? Do their homework?
- Take photos of the objects in a girl's life: her hands while working, her sewing machine, her lunch, the posters on the wall of the CBO, items on her shelves at home, etc.



- Point down: When taking a portrait shot, you want the top frame of your picture to hover over the top of the subject's head. It is better to cut off a bit of the subject's head than to leave empty space above the head.
- Be creative: Use different angles (lay on the floor, stand on a chair, hold your camera at an angle) and let the girls shoot some photos.
- If you break the rules, go bold and break them big!
- Get close and fill the center frame; get blurry and introduce movement.



# Storytelling

Simple tips to gather a better girl story on the ground



# Interviewing for the Whole Story

When interviewing a girl beneficiary, you want to not only understand her life now in the program, but to also uncover the road she has traveled. Ask about what her life was like when she was younger, what she thought of her community, the lessons she learned and events she will never forget. To hone in on more detail about a specific event, use the “moment of change” storytelling exercise.



## Discovering a Girl's Story

### Questions Beyond the Usual Suspects

- Tell me about your average day. What time do you wake up? What do you do next? How long does it take you to walk to work/school? What do you think about when you walk? What do you do at school/work? What chores do you do at home in the evening? What do you eat?
- What is a memory, good or bad, you have that you think about often?
- Did your parents or grandparents tell you stories when you were younger? Can you tell me one of those stories?
- What is the most important thing your parents or family taught you?
- What is it like to be a girl in your community?
- What do you and your friends gossip or chat about? What support do you give each other?
- Is there anything else you'd like me to know about your life story to understand you better?
- Is there anything you would like to ask me?

### Moment of Change

Our lives comprise an infinite number of moments, and some of those moments are loaded with more meaning than others. The moment of change might be the most memorable or dramatic moment, or it may have occurred without the storyteller even noticing it at the time. Whether the storyteller became aware of it at the time or in reflection, we want to help them find the moment of change that best represents the insight that they wish to convey. Often a girl's moment of change is about encountering the grassroots organization that transformed her life.

To help find the true meaning of her story, ask the girl: “What's the story you want to tell?” and then “What do you think your story means?” We want to hear not just what the story is about in the obvious sense, but what it's really about: the storyteller, as the person who lived through the story.

#### *finding the moment of change*

- What change happened?
- What were you like before the change?
- What were you like after?
- What did you learn?