



Wish Story Writing Tips

- **Be sure to answer the five Ws:** What, when, why, who, where?
- **Get all full names and titles** of wish kid, family and anyone involved with the wish experience. Be sure to ask permission to use full names.
- **Get quotes** from wish kid and other people involved with wish experience, especially volunteers. Ask open-ended questions (see next tip) that require more than a yes or no answer.
- **Learn about the wish kid and family.** Why did the child choose this wish? What is their background? Is this their first time traveling? What does the wish experience mean to them?
- **Keep an eye out for details.** No detail is too small, and some of the smallest points can add color to a great wish story. Be sure to get technical details for vehicle wishes, computer wishes, etc.
- **Wish enhancements:** Include as many details of the wish child's itinerary as possible, including details about a limo ride or flight on a sponsor airline, etc.
- **Thank those helping.** Be sure to note sponsors/ organizations that contribute time, resources to granting the wish.
- **Don't forget to take notes** during the wish!



Wish Story Photography Tips

- **Keep your camera steady.** Hold the camera with two hands, rest your elbows on your chest, hold your breath, and then shoot.
- **Get closer.** Fill the frame. Unless you're taking landscape shots, don't be shy with your subjects. Get 1-2 steps closer than you normally would.
- **Watch the light !!!** Make sure the sun or other bright lights aren't behind the subject – this "backlighting" creates silhouettes.
- **Shoot at your subjects' eye-level.** Especially with children, lower the camera level to minimize foreshortening and distortion.
- **Use Fill-in Flash Outdoors.** Improve outdoor portraits with a combination of light (sun & flash). The background scenery is not disrupted, and the flash softens harsh shadows on the face.
- **Stop 'Em from Squinting.** On sunny days, the subjects should be in open shade, like under a tree or in a doorway. Then use the flash to illuminate the subject. This keeps the models cool and comfortable with no squinty eyes from the harsh sun.
- **Use a plain background.** As much as possible, make sure no light poles grow from anyone's head and that no cars seem to dangle from their ears.
- **Digital Camera Users:** Be sure to set your camera's resolution (image quality) to its maximum level (3-5 MB per picture is fine). If you don't know your digital camera, please read the manual.
- **Take many, many pictures.** One shot is not enough. It's always better to take too many pictures than to take too few.