The MSU Alumni Association wants to share the stories and perspectives volunteers participating in MSU’s Global Day of Service. We need your help in capturing and sharing that content.

// PHOTO AND VIDEO

Believe it or not, you probably have a professional quality camera in your pocket. The smartphone you use every day is capable of capturing newsworthy photos and videos. Keep these four things in mind when taking photos or recording video, to immensely improve the quality of your content:

1. Hold your phone horizontally with two hands.
2. Don’t be afraid to use your flash if you’re in a dimly lit environment.
3. Make sure your fingers do not obstruct your phone’s camera lens.
4. Avoid using your phone’s zoom function; this pixelates images. Try moving closer to your subject instead!

For in-depth tutorials visit https://www.apple.com/iphone/photography-how-to/. Don’t worry non-Apple users, many of these tips apply to your phone as well!

By holding your phone vertically your framing decreases in size. Never record video vertically.

By holding your phone horizontally your framing increases exponentially. This is extremely important for video. Always hold your phone horizontally when recording video.
INTERVIEWING VOLUNTEERS

Interviews are tough. To make them a bit easier keep these tips in mind:

1. The best interviews are prepared interviews. If possible draft a list of questions that you would like to ask volunteers.

2. Start with an icebreaker, ask the interviewee for their name and year of graduation, dig a little deeper and find out what the interviewee does for a living, or what their hobbies and passions are.

3. The ultimate goal is to find out why the interviewee decided to volunteer. To spur their answer talk about what motivated you to volunteer for MSU's Global Day of Service. From here, you can segue into asking what their role was during the day, and how they felt about their volunteer experience.

4. When using your phone to record audio and video of the interviewee, ensure that your phone is close enough to pick up their audio.

5. After completing their interview, replay their responses. If you notice answers that cut-off, or are unhappy with the quality, try another take!

The MSU Alumni Association has found that the best time to interview volunteers is at the close of service projects. Volunteers tend to be invigorated by their experience, and are excited to talk about their experiences from the day.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

The MSU Alumni Association wants to see your content! Whether you're snapping photos, or interviewing volunteers, be sure to share them with us by using the hashtag #MSUDayofService. By using this hashtag, you'll make it easier for MSUAA and other Spartans to like and share your posts.

Post your content to all of your social media platforms! And if possible tag your affiliated alumni club, organization, volunteers, and of course, us!

For your use, here are the MSU Alumni Association's official social media accounts:

Facebook: @msualumni

Instagram: @msualumni

Twitter: @MSUAA