

The Coral Restoration Consortium Citizen Documentarian Guide



We all know the idea of the “citizen scientist.” We also need “citizen documentarians.”

An important part of the Coral Restoration Consortium’s mission is to tell the story of all the restoration work happening across the globe. We can’t be everywhere at once. We need help telling your story.

We want to introduce the people rescuing and restoring coral reefs around the world. To do this, we are asking you take a little time to film yourself in your environment and show us how you work.

You will be shooting a documentary about yourself, then sending us the footage to edit together. **The final versions are yours to keep!** Please send your organization’s logo - and confirm that you give CRC permission to co-brand at the end of the video.

All you’ll need is a smartphone (from the last 5 years), a friend to hold the camera and a little bit of time set aside to get the shots, introduce yourself and your work, and answer some questions that we’ll use as a voice over for the film.

Landscape Portraits

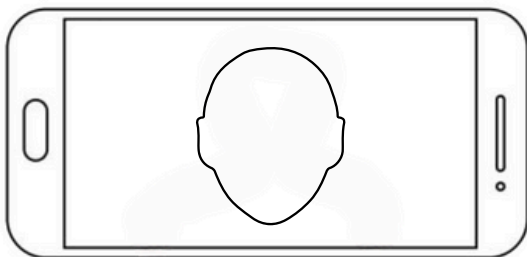
First, we are going to shoot three video portraits, each for as long as you can hold it **(a minute would be long enough.)**

Look straight at the camera. Smile or don't smile. Whatever feels comfortable. If it makes you laugh, laugh.

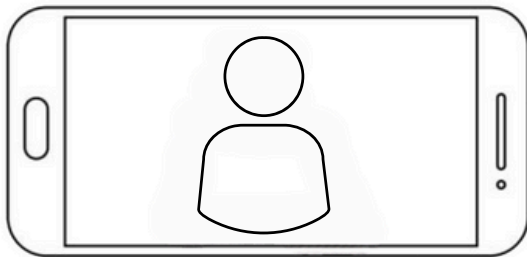
Just hold still like you would for a photo portrait. And have the person holding the camera hold as still as possible as well.

Remember!

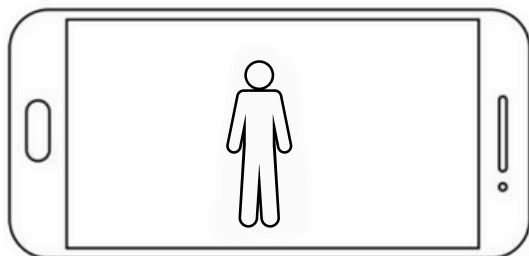
Turn the camera on its side. We are going to film in the “landscape” orientation. **(So it looks more like a movie screen than a skyscraper.)**



“TIGHT” FOR 1 MINUTE



“MEDIUM” FOR 1 MINUTE

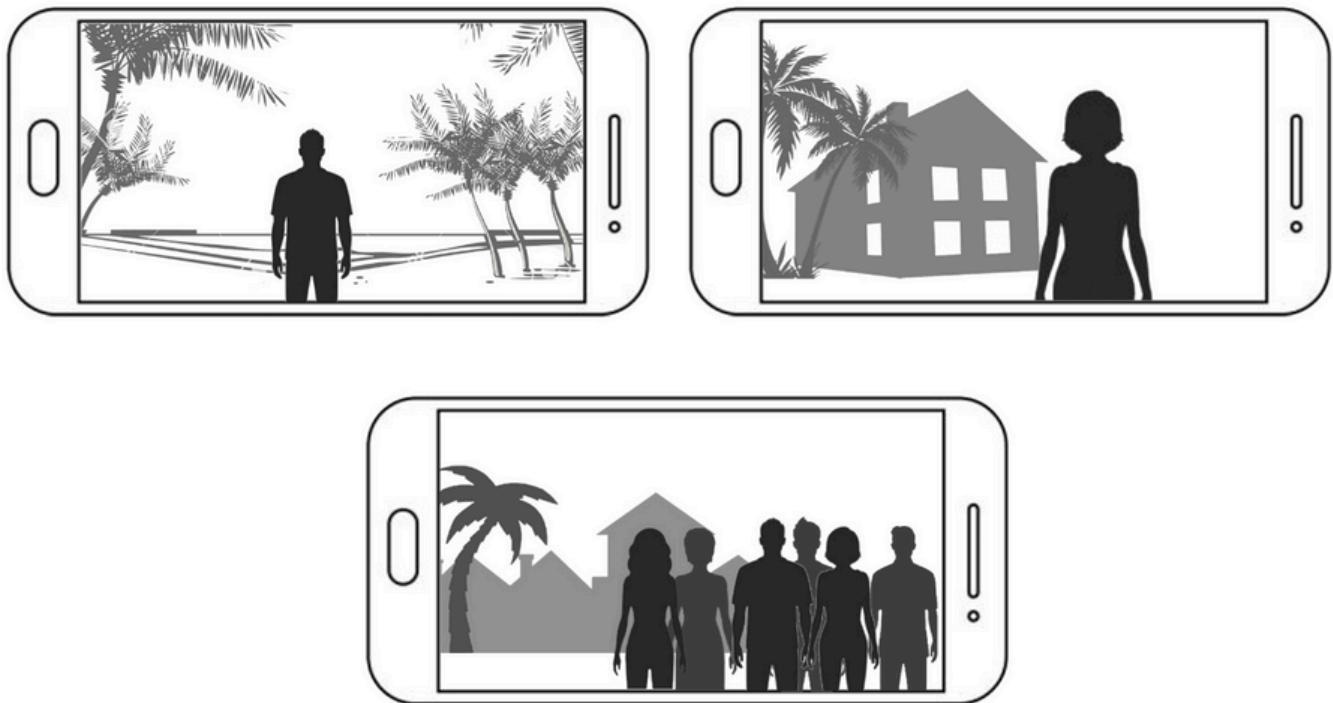


“WIDE” FOR 1 MINUTE

Location

Try to find a place to shoot your portraits that has a nice background. Perhaps the beach, near the reef, on a boat, or with the building in which you work in the background.

If you have a team, please shoot a video portrait of the whole group. Hold it for about one minute **(that will feel long!)**

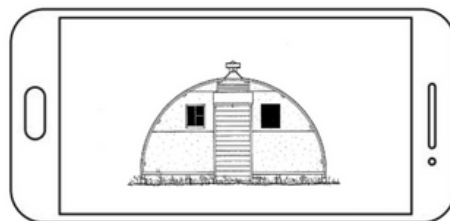
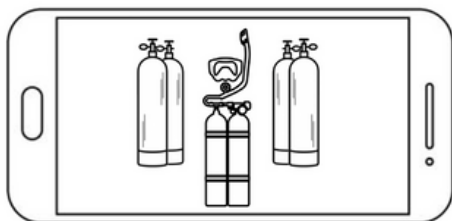


Example of landscape orientation portraits!

Landscape “B Roll”

We would also like shots of where you live, and where you do the work and the equipment you use. Think of these shots as “portraits of your environment” that we’ll use to restore your local reefs to tell the story of your work.

Things that may seem boring or regular will be critical to tell your story. Like where you store your gear, where the corals are grown, and where they are planted. Read through the questions on [Page 6](#). If there’s something you can show us that helps answer a question, please film it. The more, the better! And remember, **hold these shots for longer than feels comfortable: 15 seconds or more.**



Perhaps it’s a store room or corner of the office where the gear is. And a portrait of the outside of the office. The more we have, the better.



Maybe it’s also the marine, or shots of the environment so we can get a good visual idea of what is happening there and its proximity to people.

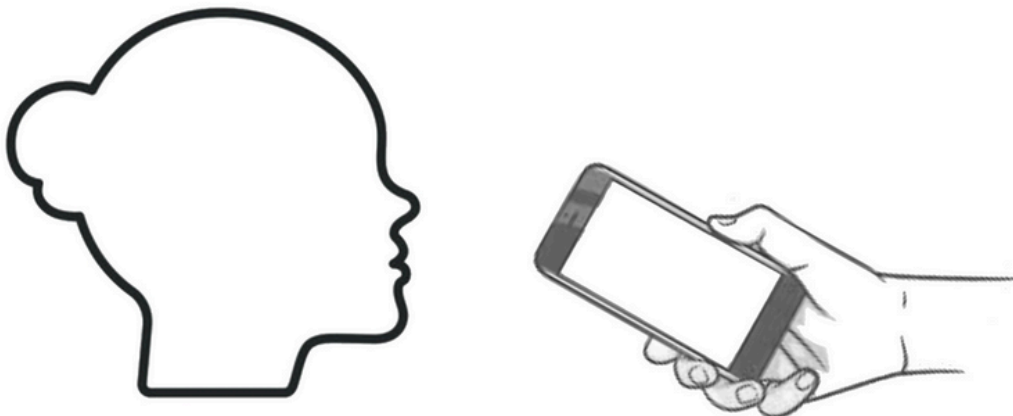
Voiceover

Recording your answers to the interview questions ([page 8](#)) will also be done with your phone. You can put the phone camera in video mode, hold it away from your mouth 15-20cm and record your answers. **Don't worry about what the video is shooting** (the camera lens can be pointed at the floor) because all we care about is the audio for this part.

Try to record somewhere quiet. A small room or closet with clothes in it are good places (the soft fabrics keeps the sound from echoing).

If you can, put your smartphone in “**Airplane Mode**” so your recording isn't interrupted by phone calls or texts.

If you want to have someone else hold the phone, that's fine too. Try to hold the phone steady and without movement. Any movement can create extra sounds caught in the recording.



The Questions



Please answer as many of these as you can and try to “repeat the question” in your answer. For instance “What is your relationship to the coral reef?” would be answered: “My relationship to the coral reef is...” and be as talkative as you like!

What is your name and the name of your organization?

(I’m ____ and I work for/run/work with ____.)

or

(I’m ____ and I’m the managing direct/founder of ____.)

When did your organization start and how long have you been working there?

What is your role?

What is your relationship to the coral reef?

How do you think the reefs in your region are doing?

What are the big issues?

How did you get involved in coral restoration?

What techniques do you use?

How does it make you feel to restore corals and to see corals that you restored thriving?

How does it make you feel when you see them bleached or die?

What do you want the world to know about the work you do?

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It is important that the **Citizen Documentarian Series** is all about the people doing the work, telling their own stories as they happen. A massive part of spreading the word and getting support for the hard work you're doing comes down to making sure those who can help us see the work on the ground and in the water. **Again, the final versions are yours to keep! Please send your organizations logo - and confirm that you give CRC permission to co-brand at the end of the video.**

We will also need a written version of your name & organization & location name with lat/long in decimal degrees (so we can map it) and any other relevant text or information you think we'll need!

In sending in your audio or video, you are agreeing to CRC's terms consenting that all images, video, and audio can be used by the Coral Restoration Consortium for promotional and social media purposes.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS IMPORTANT WORK AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SPREAD THE WORD OF YOUR STORY AND THE NEED FOR ACTION. WE CAN'T WAIT TO HELP YOU TELL YOUR STORY!

-The Coral Restoration Consortium Team

Item Check List



Please review that you have completed the following items:

- Organization Logo
- 3 Landscape Portraits - 1 Minute Each
- Landscape “B-Roll” - As much as you like! The more the better!
- Voiceover of Interview Questions
- In-Writing: Organization Name, Location Name with Lat/Long in Decimal Degrees, and any other information you think we will need!

By sending/uploading your materials you are giving the CRC permission to co-brand at the end of your video.

If you have compiled all of these items, please either upload them into your personalized Google Drive folder or send them to **comms@crc.world**

If you have any questions at all, please email comms@crc.world

We are here to help and are excited to share your story!
-The Coral Restoration Consortium Team