What is Depth of Field?
The depth of field (DOF) is the area of a scene that appears sharp in the image. DOF refers to the zone of focus in a photograph or the distance between the closest and furthest parts of the picture that are reasonably sharp.

Depth of field is determined by three main attributes:
1) The **APERTURE** (size of the opening)
2) The **SHUTTER SPEED** (time of the exposure)
3) **DISTANCE** from the subject being photographed

SHALLOW and GREAT Depth of Field Explained

**Shallow Depth of Field:**
In shallow depth of field, the main subject is emphasized by making all other elements out of focus. (Foreground or background is purposely blurry)
- **Aperture:** The **larger the aperture**, the **shallower** the depth of field.
- **Distance:** The **closer** you are to the subject matter, the **shallower** the depth of field.

***You cannot achieve shallow depth of field with excessive bright light. This means no bright sunlight pictures for shallow depth of field because you can’t open the aperture wide enough in bright light.***

**SHALLOW DOF STEPS:**
1. Set your camera to a small f/stop number such as f/2-f/5.6.
2. GET CLOSE to your subject (between 2-5 feet away).
3. Don’t put the subject too close to its background; the farther away the subject is from its background the better.
4. Set your camera for the correct exposure by adjusting only the shutter speed (aperture is already set).
5. Find the best composition, focus the lens of your camera and take your picture.

**Great Depth of Field:**
In great depth of field, subject matter and background are **BOTH** sharp and in focus.
- **Aperture:** The **smaller the aperture**, the **greater** the depth of field.
- **Distance:** The **further away** you are from the subject matter, the **greater** the depth of field.

**GREAT DOF Technique:**
1. Set the aperture on a large f/stop number such as f/22 – f/11.
2. You can be **FURTHER AWAY** with great depth of field (5+ feet away).
3. Set your camera for the correct exposure by adjusting only the shutter speed (aperture is already set).
4. Find the best composition, focus the lens of your camera and take your picture.