



sikh women's action & networking project

about

WHAT IS THE S.W.A.N. PROJECT?

The Sikh Women's Action & Networking project originated in the fall of 2006 through a series of interviews with self-identified Sikh women aged 18- 30 in Seattle, Boston, Washington D.C. and Manhattan.

Developing into documentation and networking forum featuring Sikh women around the US, this web-based project will be a collection of narratives, images and video.

Reminiscent of the photo journals and logs currently found online for news articles, an online gallery will allow us to share the many stories of Sikh women across the united states through oral histories and photography.

Using images they capture and their own voice to tell their story we hope to inspire other young women to actualize their goals.

This project will also have an interactive approach in linking young women with mentors or Sikh women in their profession to provide them with industry resources, connections and like-minded females.



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photography

The photography portion of this project about expressing your life visually and sharing with other Sikh women, who you are, what you are about, and who or what is important to you.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO:

With the disposable cameras provided, please take pictures with a purpose and with a deliberate intention to share yourself, your community, and your ideas with other Sikh girls and women around the US.

1. There is a list of picture criteria that you need to fulfill with taking these pictures. After taking the pictures that we NEED, you get to take pictures about things that are about you, your life, and your exhibit.
2. For each picture that you take, we also ask that you fill out the Photo Log as well. In the Photo Log, it asks you to tell us the picture number you are taking, what you would call the picture, to describe the image with words, and then tell us why you took this picture.

WHERE DO I START?

When beginning to take pictures, there are a few photographic elements that are important to consider. **How, what,** and **why,** you take a picture is important.

- **HOW to take pictures:** Direction and examples of ways to compose your picture can be found on the Composing Pictures page. It is important to realize that the way a picture is taken can speak *more* about the subject than what the picture is actually of.
- **WHY you take certain pictures:** Keeping a log of your pictures is important- be sure to write about your picture in the Photo Log, every time you take a picture.
- **WHAT to take pictures of:** Below are some helpful things and questions to think about when taking picture.



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CONSIDER REPRESENTATION:

YOURSELF:

- Who are you? -What inspires you?
- What do you do? (job, activities) - What does your life look like?
- What are your goals, aspirations, and achievements?

YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Who is your community? Why are these people or places your community?
- What is important to your community?
- Who do you consider your family, your friends, people at your school/ work?
- What does your neighborhood, street, school, work or Gurudwara look like?

WHAT DO I TAKE PICTURES OF?

Here is a checklist of pictures you need to have:

1. Self Portrait -a picture of you. (Please consult the Self Portrait page).
2. A picture of your family (biological or self created)
3. A picture of the place you feel most at home.
4. A representation of your community (does not have to be of people).
5. A representation of what your identity is.
6. A representation of what you enjoy/ love about who you are.
7. A representation of what it means for you to be a sikh woman.
8. A picture of something that interests you/ inspires you.
9. A picture of something that frustrates you or you would like to see improved.
10. A visual representation of what you'd like to tell the Sikh women who will be your "successor" / "heir" of the state of our community.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PICTURE FOR EACH THING LISTED ABOVE- PLEASE INDICATE WHICH IMAGE CORRESPONDS TO WHICH PROMPT. The remaining pictures are left for you to further express your story and to take pictures of things you mentioned in your interview. For example, if you spoke about your job, please capture images of you at work or representations of the work you do. If you spoke about your interest in animal rights, try to visually represent in a picture.