

Historic Photography - Dr Jan Sigvartsen

INSTRUCTOR

Jan Sigvartsen PhD

Leanne Sigvartsen MCouns

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Tarragindi.org

AGE

8 -18

FORMAT

In-person

HOURS

18 hours (more
hours available)

CLASS OVERVIEW

Learn how to take beautiful photographs while cataloging some of Berrien County's important historic buildings and places. Your best photographs will be kept for future generations to enjoy in a special youth archive at the Berrien County History Center. You will also photograph artifacts discovered at the Old Jailhouse Archaeological Dig and the Tarragindi Archaeological Dig (see Tarragindi.org) and create a very important historic photographic record of the *Spring 2026 Dig Season* for Berrien County. We will also learn about some of the fascinating history and stories of Berrien Springs that will inform and inspire our photography.

This is your time to learn new techniques, be creative, try different angles and perspectives, learn from others, share ideas, and try to capture amazing and unique photos of Berrien Springs and its history. A parent, grandparent, or guardian over 18 is welcome to accompany you, but is not required. Friends and siblings aged 5-18 must be registered for this class with the parent partnership to participate, or be a fee-paying student.

Dr Jan Sigvartsen also operates Berrien Springs Parent Partnership and Niles Virtual School classes:

1. Archaeology Dig – Tarragindi
2. Archaeology Dig – Old Jailhouse
3. Archaeology Plus – Long Lake Cemetery Restoration Project
4. Historic Photography
5. Historic Court Trials
6. Board Gaming Eurogames

CLASS TIMES

Wednesday 10am – 12pm (8x 2-hour classes) or
Tuesday 4pm - 6pm (8x 2-hour classes)

Plus:

Week 1 – Orientation – January 6 or 8 at 6pm – 8pm

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- a camera, or phone/tablet camera (it doesn't have to be fancy)
- a good pair of cold-weather walking shoes
- and warm clothes suitable for being outdoors during February and March

YOUR PROJECT

Talk to your instructor for project ideas – there are plenty in photography!

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, January 6 <u>OR</u> 8	ORIENTATION – Berrien Springs Old Courthouse
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs January 6, 2026 - 6-8 pm <u>or</u> January 8, 2026 – 6-8 pm	All students undertaking Dr Jan Sigvartsen’s five Parent Partnership classes this semester are required to attend orientation. There are two scheduled orientation times – you only have to attend <u>one</u> of these scheduled orientations
WEEK 2, February 17 or 18	HISTORY CENTER TOUR – at your preferred class time
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs	This week, we will photograph the Berrien Springs History Center and learn about the fascinating and often surprising history of multicultural Berrien Springs, its indigenous people, and its early pioneers. This class will be held at your preferred class time.
WEEK 3, February 24 or 25	PHOTOGRAPHING DOWNTOWN – at your preferred class time
Journal Era Building 101 W Ferry Street, Berrien Springs	This week, we will photograph the historic Berrien Springs downtown area and learn about some of its buildings.
WEEK 4, March 3 or 4	REVIEW OUR PHOTOS TO DATE – at your preferred class time
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs	This week, we will review the photos we have taken so far. We will also do a tutorial about portraits, the use of color, photo composition, and perspective.
WEEK 5 March 10 or 11	BUCHANAN DOWNTOWN AREA – at your preferred class time
Buchanan Post Office 112 W Front Street, Buchanan	This week, we will photograph the historic Buchanan downtown area and learn about the history of some of its buildings.
WEEK 6, March 17 or 18	THE HISTORIC “POOR” FARM – at your preferred class time
Love Creek Nature Reserve 9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center	This class will be held at Love Creek Nature Reserve, which was the site of the Berrien County “poor” farm where, in the 1800s, those down on their luck could live and farm.
WEEK 7 March 24 or 25	ROSE HILL CEMETERY TOUR – at your preferred class time
Rose Hill Cemetery 9905 Rose Hill Road, Berrien Springs	This is a special tour of the Rose Hill Cemetery, where we can learn about symbology on graves and also photograph some of Berrien County’s oldest and most interesting graves.
WEEK 8 April 7 or 8	FERNWOOD BOTANIC GARDENS – last class for Berrien Springs students
Fernwood Botanical Gardens 13988 Range Line Road, Berrien Springs	This week, we will visit Fernwood Botanical Gardens to tour this historic garden, hear some of its fascinating stories, and see its spectacular fall display.
WEEK 9 April 14 or 15	NILES DOWNTOWN – last class for Niles students
Secretary of State Office, 110 E Main Street, Niles	This week, we will photograph the historic Niles downtown area and learn about the history of some of its buildings.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD (Dr Jan) has taught Archaeology and Ancient Religion classes at Andrews University, Michigan, and the Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, Germany, where he was also their PhD Programs Coordinator and Associate Director of their Institute of Biblical Studies and Archaeology. He has participated in archeological digs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States. A lot of archaeology involves carefully photographing artifacts and building remains for posterity and historical records. Dr Jan has traveled to every continent, except Antarctica (it's on his bucket list), photographing historical sites, cultural sites, and the modern people who inhabit the areas in and around them. He exceeds the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology*, as stipulated in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61 (see: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/sec-standards-prof-quals.htm>).

Leanne Sigvartsen (Ms Leanne) originally trained as a psychologist in Australia and spent many years as a counselor and academic advisor for teens and young adults. She then transitioned to research project management, working on a number of projects, most recently as the Research and Special Projects Director at the Chicago-based *Center for Collaborative Study of Trauma, Health Equity, and Neurobiology*. She is a triple citizen of the United States, Australia, and Malta, and has lived in the United States, Australia, and Germany. She wants to see young people succeed, be happy, and grow into thriving adults - especially those who have experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences. She has a passion for photographing castles, cathedrals, and cottages – not just to capture their beauty, but also the historic and fascinating lives of the people who lived in them.