Three ways to affect depth of field

Changing the aperture
The wider the aperture you use, the less depth of field you capture. This isn’t always a disadvantage, as it allows you to throw distracting elements out of focus.

Aperture: 1/8
Focused at 10m with a zoom setting of 20mm

Aperture: 1/22
Focused at 20m with a zoom setting of 70mm

Aperture: f/2.8
Focused at 5m with a zoom setting of 70mm

Red areas show how much of the scene would be in focus for each of the three setups.

Changing the focus distance
The closer you are to the subject you’re focusing on, the less depth of field you will capture on camera.

Lens focused on subject at 1m
Camera set to an aperture of 1/8 with a lens setting of 70mm

Lens focused on subject at 5m
Camera set to an aperture of f/8 with a lens setting of 70mm

Changing the focal length
The zoom setting or lens that you use affects how much of the image looks sharp. The wider the lens (the shorter the focal length) the more depth of field you capture.

Focal length: 20mm
Focused at 2m with aperture set at 1/8

Focal length: 70mm
Focused at 1m with aperture set at 1/8

Focal length: 200mm
Focused at 2m with aperture set at 1/8

Telephoto effect
The more you zoom in on your subject, the less depth of field you’ll capture on camera.

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