

Preparing For Your Portrait Session

We are in the business of creating portraits that you will love and cherish for many years to come. The creation of a beautiful portrait requires the culmination of efforts from both the photographer and the subjects being photographed. Since you do not commission a fine portrait very often, we cannot expect you to know all of the elements that affect its creation. The following guideline will help you make important decisions about your portrait. We encourage you to follow these tips to assist us in creating your portrait masterpiece.

Sun

- If you are going to tan, Please do not tan for at least two days before your shoot. This will reduce redness of your skin in the photos. Redness, sunburn and tan lines cannot be retouched.

Make-up

- Your make-up will tend to be lighter in your photos so apply it as you would for an evening event. Apply make-up to help enhance your eyes and mouth. At a minimum, a bit of gloss on the lips and a little mascara is recommended if you are a die hard natural and normally do not wear any make-up.
- Be careful when applying foundation. You do not want your face to be one color and your upper body another.
- Avoid glittery make-up because it will show as white spots in your pictures.
- Men should consider applying clear powder to their faces to reduce shine.
- It is possible that your hands will show in some photographs, so make sure your nails are neatly manicured and a fresh coat of polish is applied.
- If you have blemishes you are concerned with, a little make-up can cover it up. To test the concealment, stand about two feet from a mirror. If you can't see it in the mirror, you shouldn't see it in your pictures.

Hair

- Get haircuts at least one week before your session. Resist the temptation to have a completely new cut or style, as you may not be happy with the result
- Have perms and color applied to your hair at least two weeks prior to the session
- Shaving should be preformed at least two hours prior to the portrait session to reduce skin redness.

Glasses

- If you wear glasses and wish to have them on for your portrait, it would be helpful to have a pair of empty frames for your portrait session. Eyeglass lenses not only catch light reflections, but also can deform the face line in some portraits.
- You may want to consider some pictures with and some without your glasses.

Clothing

- Make sure your cloths are clean and well pressed. If wrinkles are present they will be visible in the photo.
- Good undergarments go unnoticed, while the wrong garment spoils everything.
- If your session permits, bring several wardrobe choices for each person. Please be advised that you may have to do your changing in the car if there are no suitable facilities nearby. In some cases, you may be able to wear a bathing suit underneath your clothing.
- Dress from head to toe. Bring clean shoes, socks, belts and accessories that coordinate with each outfit you bring.
- Try to avoid clothing with busy patterns, stripes, pictures, or logos, as these will attract more attention in the finished picture than the person wearing them. Avoid Horizontal Strips!
- Make sure that your clothes fit properly. Large, baggy cloths may be in style, but they aren't flattering in photos. Also anything too tight may confine you and make you look uncomfortable.
- Choosing the right neckline is also important. If you have a slightly longer neck you can choose a higher neckline such as a turtleneck. However if you have a shorter neck, choose a V-neck or crew. V-neck tops are most flattering for everyone.
- For groups, pick theme colors and keep everyone in shades of that color so that no single member of the family stands out because of his/her clothing is too light or bright as compared to the rest of the group. An easy example is white shirts and khaki pants for everyone.
- Color is one of the most important decisions. Avoid wearing yellow or green as they adversely affect skin color. Clothing colors should compliment your skin tone. If you find people compliment your appearance when you wear certain colors, this may be a good indication of the colors that look the best on you. Shirts in solid color darker tones work well for outdoor portraits and help keep the attention on your face rather than your clothing.
- Be advised that wearing short shorts, short skirts or tight fitting skirts will limit the variety of poses.
- Sleeveless clothing is not recommended. It makes your arms appear large than they are. If you have flattering arms, you may be able to pull off the sleeveless look.
- If you are self conscious about certain body parts, cover them with appropriate clothing. For example, wear long sleeve shirts if you are self conscious about your arms; don't wear a short shirt if you don't want your midriff to show.
- Keep jewelry and accessories small and simple.

Expressions

- Expressions are the most important part of your portrait and we work hard to give you a variety of expressions.
- Soft, sensitive expressions are the best. Practice smiling in front of a mirror. You may feel silly at the time, but it will help you later.
- Do not tell children to smile or say silly words. Tell them to play and have fun. Get young children used to having their picture made with "practice sessions" at home.



"Capturing the images that capture your heart"

Props

- If you have any special props like a hat, sunglasses, a toy, scarves, an instrument, sports gear, dance costumes, a stuffed animal, etc.. Make sure to bring them
- For your children, bring toys, cradles, balls, gloves, skates, stuffed animals, and whatever else your children like.

Time

- It is very important to get a good night sleep before your session, also drinking lots of fluids will improve your skin texture
- Arrive 10 minutes early to allow for final clothing and hair adjustments.
- Schedule your portrait session when you have no other appointments so you will not be rushed.
- Allow enough time for your session.
- Schedule children around their good times of day.
- Please call if you need to change your appointment.

Don't Forget

- Have all outfits selections pressed and ready to go.
- Bring clean shoes, socks, belts and accessories that coordinate with each outfit you bring.
- Shave approximately two hours before the session
- Items such as watches, glasses, and other tight fitting jewelry or clothing can leave red marks on your skin and can take up to an hour to disappear. Please be sure to remove them at least an hour before showing up for your appointment.
- Hair products / accessories, make-up or anything else you may need to complete your look or to freshen up.
- Try on all outfit selections to ensure proper fit before the day of your session.
- Bring props that show your hobbies and interest to the photo shoot.
- Bring a friend and/or parent with to help ease your jitters; they will be able to help you out in a number of ways.