

What to expect

I know planning photo session, whether it is for a family Christmas card, your wedding day, or anything in between, can be confusing and downright stressful. The following outlines what you can expect from your photo shoot, from the first contact, to the last print, which will hopefully ease some of those fears.

The first step is to schedule a meeting. We will discuss your ideas, look at places where you can show off your final piece, and make a plan for it to be everything you want it to be. It's all about establishing a vision. What colors should you wear? Should your clothes be casual? Let's figure out what story we're telling, and how to communicate that.

Once we've answered these questions and come up with a design, we'll move on to scheduling your photography session. Location and length of time will be based on what we decide in your consultation. While you wait for your session, we may exchange emails & phone calls about photography inspiration or clothing choices. No question is too silly – feel free to call me!

The session comes next – the day you've been waiting for! Since we'll be fully prepared, you can arrive with confidence, and put your worries aside. We'll have a fun time working together, and making some amazing photographs, that you'll treasure for many years to come.

About two weeks after your session, you will receive a password to a secure online gallery which is live for 7 days for you to share with family and friends and choose what you wish to have. After you choose your favorites photos I can retouch it (if need it) and allow to download your favorites.

If you decide to order prints on paper, canvas, metal or acrylic as well as photo book or albums we will meet for another appointment to choose a product.

This appointment is always lots of fun! You get to experience to realizing the artistic vision and how amazing your family is. Once your selections are made, I will retouch the photos and prepare them for printing or making the book.

Once your photographs is hanging on your wall or published in the book, the project is complete. As the years go by, this art work will become more and more meaningful. It represents this precious moment in time – nothing will ever be quite the same again. The art on your wall allows you to relive that moment whenever you choose. That is a precious thing.

Preparing for a Photo Session

*A great portrait is a collaboration between photographer and a model.
When both are working together the result is far more than what comes from
direction alone.*

I'll start out by saying that plenty of rest and hydration is the best preparation for any photo shoot. As well I know, it may be tough to fully address all the items on this list before your session, especially if you are also preparing a large group; but accomplishing even some of these will have a great impact on the results.

- 1. All you intend to wear should be laid out, clean and ironed the night before. Wrinkle-free clothing will help make your image much better.*
- 2. Eat! Be sure to eat something before you leave for your session so you're not hungry during the shoot. I can't stress this enough. You will look better, be more focused, and have the energy throughout the shoot. This is especially important for children. A great idea would be to bring crackers, nutrition bar, etc; but stay away from chocolate or colored items/drinks, etc. You wouldn't want to color the lips, tongue, and teeth or dirty the clothing.*
- 3. Make-up: You want to achieve a natural even skin tone. If you want some instruction on makeup or would like a makeup artist, please don't hesitate to ask.*
- 4. Fingers and toes should be clean and groomed. You want to be careful your nail color doesn't detract from you and your face as the primary subject. The focus of a viewer naturally gravitates first to loud vibrant colors, then secondly to the rest of the photo. I recommend your nails should be a natural color (nude, french, light-pink, etc)*
- 5. If you color your hair, make sure roots are not visible. It is extremely difficult and cost-prohibitive to correct.*
- 6. For men, all facial hair should be groomed.*

6. Facials and haircuts should be done a week or so before the shoot date.

7. For all, be sure eyebrows are groomed, teeth are clean, and lips are not dry. If necessary, please bring a lip balm/moisturizer with you. Moist lips always look better.

8. Come hair-ready and bring a brush, comb, etc for touching up during the shoot. Hair and Make-up professionals are recommended for best results.

9. Clothing: A good rule-of-thumb is to try and wear clothing that doesn't detract from your face: Your clothes should be free of logos. You would also want to stay away from large busy prints and loud vibrant colors, . Similar to nails, loud colors usually command the viewer's attention, etc. You should discuss clothes with your photographer before the shoot.

10. I will put this tip on it's own bullet point as it is so important. Be sure all clothes are lint and hair free as much as possible.

If you see ideas in magazines, etc. that really attract your attention, feel free to bring those clipping or phone pics to your session. How you feel about photography, what moves you and what you gravitate to provides much insight helping meet and exceeding your expectations. Never hesitate to share your idea.

Bring Your Family, Friends, Pets, Favorite music, Toys, Books etc. There no limits for having fun!