

## **Portraits Tips**

### **Clothing:**

Avoid wearing white, stripes and loud, busy patterns. Choose clothing with solid colors and/or very small patterns. Burgundy, blue, purple, and green work well. Consider how your clothing colors complement or detract from your skin coloring.

Pastels and very light colors tend to photograph lighter than you would expect. Darker colors bring out skin tones better than lighter colors.

Make sure clothing is as wrinkle free as possible and fits you well, baggy or clothes that are too loose fitting will adversely affect the image, as will clothing that seems uncomfortably tight.

### **Shine Reduction:**

Oil on skin creates shiny spots on your face when a flash is used. To reduce shiny spots apply, a light dusting of baby powder or cosmetic powder to your face. Spots most likely to shine are noses, cheeks, chins, and foreheads. (This applies to guys too!)

### **Acne:**

Don't worry too much if you have acne or blemishes. Retouching works wonders! To help create even skin tones, you can dab a bit of concealer on your blemishes (This applies to guys too).

If you have very heavy acne, it is best not to cover it with hair (such as bangs). Bangs over acne makes retouching more difficult.

### **Glasses:**

Light reflected from a flash in eyeglass lenses can create white spots. To reduce this occurrence, you can check to see if your lenses have a glare resistant coating. Ask your optometrist to temporarily remove your lenses or borrow a set of frames similar to the ones you usually wear.

### **Hair:**

For your portraits, you want your hair to look its best. We recommend that if you are planning to have it cut before your portrait session, have it done at least one to two weeks before. This gives it a chance to grow out and look natural.

### **Facial Hair:**

If you have a heavy beard and don't want that "shadow" to show, please shave before you come for your session. You can always shave your goatee after the first set of poses to have two different looks.

**Pets:**

Pets are welcome to join you provided that you bring someone along to hold them while your session is in progress.

**Children/Babies:**

I love to capture the smiles and expressions of children because it is nearly impossible to get anything but genuine emotion. It is imperative that you as parents understand this too. I will try all I can to get that perfect smile, but sometimes it's helpful to bring a family member along that can get the children's attention while I pose the image and wait at the ready for the million dollar smile.

**Mom & Dad:**

The plus side to having someone else to help with the kids, is that it frees up a few moments to get some well deserved Mom & Dad portraits. Please be willing to have your photos taken together, you'll really be glad to have that ever so elusive "down time" where you can fall back into each other's eyes on film. These are the type of memories that you, and other family members will cherish!

**It's all about attitude!**

It's perfectly natural to feel on edge or nervous before a portrait session, but don't let those feelings hide your true emotions and sense of pride for your family. Some poses we try might feel un-natural, and I encourage you to let me know! What has worked for some may not be universal, and I am willing to do what it takes to find those few natural feeling poses.

Truthfully, posing is my least favorite part of photography, because it is just that, posing. The most artistic and rewarding aspect of photography is being able to capture and convey a subject's personality though a millisecond of their life. My training in photojournalism has strengthened my feelings for this, so please don't feel nervous or confused if I ask you to just be yourselves, which can mean playing games you would at home, piggy-backs, skipping, whatever! We will take care of the formal poses, but the ones I like best can get a little goofy just to evoke those natural emotions.

I commonly photograph families in a park-setting, because the open areas and playgrounds can be the perfect place for smiles. I will often take the last half of the session inviting the family to "go play on the playground," and surprisingly enough, these tend to yield the best photos, even for adults!