

10 Top Tips

Look Your Best in Portraits



1 Consultation

Having some helpful tips on clothing, how to wear your hair, make-up and time-of-day for an outdoor portrait can go a long way towards making this the wonderful portrait you dreamed of.

Give us a call to arrange a brief and straight forward consultation on getting ready for your portrait. We can also go over many of these details over the phone if you like.

2 Clothing

White or Pastel colors are perfect for lighter backgrounds. Casual outfits in earth tones work best for outdoor photographs. Middle tones or deeper solid colors are ideal for formal portraits. Avoid large prints or patterns that detract from your face. Many people like a casual sweater, denim or polo type shirt.

What is most important is that you ALL have a similar style, color and look. Choose slong sleeved shirts or sweaters rather than short-sleeved. Long sleeves generally look best.

3 Hair

Wear your hair the way you normally do. Don't try something new just to look different. Perms should be done at least two weeks before, and guys should have haircuts at least one week before. It's also best to shave just before the portrait.

4 Make-Up

Make-up will always enhance the way you look. Foundation will even the skin tones and cover any flaws on the skin. It can even be used on guys to hide a blemish or small mark on the skin.

Eye make-up enhances and brings out the beauty of your eyes, while blush and lipstick gives added brilliance and better structure to your entire face. Select neutral colors, not frosted!

5 Glasses

We suggest you borrow a set of frames without lenses or have the lenses removed from your own glasses if possible. There will be reflection and distortion from our lighting reflected in your lens. It can be removed with retouching, but this adds to the cost of your portrait. Outdoor photographs can be especially difficult because the sky tends to be reflected in the lens.

We can not be responsible for these reflections if you neglect to do so.

6 Colors

Selecting the right color for clothing is very important. Certain colors tend to add "weight" to people, while other colors will make you look slim or tall. Great Colors: Black, White, Cream, Navy, Royal Blue, Light Blue, Teal, Green, Hunter Green, Olive, Red, Burgundy, Brown and Tan.

7 Backgrounds

We have a wide selection of backgrounds to satisfy any taste from Classic and Traditional, to Casual and Relaxed, to Romantic and Fantasy like.

We realize that the you are the most important element in the photograph, so that is what we always emphasize.

8 Outdoors

We have a beautifully landscaped one acre portrait park at our studio with stone arched bridges, wooden fences, field stone walls, a gazebo, marble park benches, flagstone paths as well as a wide variety of trees including maple, birch, fir and poplars. The lighting is good all day.

9 Jewelry

A very simple rule of thumb is "less is more." If something doesn't necessarily go with an outfit, don't use it! Keep jewelry simple unless you are doing the "Fabulous Faces" session - which is a high fashion session. Then it's appropriate to wear dramatic jewelry.

10 On location

Time of day for an outdoor portrait is important. If you want to go to another location, we would be happy to do so. Often we go to the beach on Lake Michigan or to a local park. Just give us a call and ask for our recommendations. We know of many wonderful locations.