

Dreamweaver Artists

Fine Art and Portrait Photography

Portrait Tips: The Portrait Session Timeline



This timeline will give you an idea of the things to do and when to do them to prepare for your portrait session. Also we have provided an outline of what happens after your session.

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Several months prior to the session

- If you plan to have a large family portrait made, which requires individuals to travel from out of town, you will want to coordinate everyone's schedule so that they can all be here at the right time. Leave ample arrival time to avoid a "late flight" affecting your appointment time.

Booking your session

- After coordinating all participants' schedules, book your portrait session with us as soon as possible, so that the appointed date works for all parties.
- ***The non-refundable reservation fee is due upon booking. The entire reservation fee will be applied to portrait purchases at the purchasing session.***

After booking your session

- When you set your appointment we will also schedule an in-person consultation where we can sit down together and discuss your desires for your portraits. We really like to have this consultation in-person where we can meet and get to know each other.
- At the consultation, we will be able to also schedule a visit to your home to see where your portraits will be displayed and provide guidance, if you wish.

One week prior to the session

- Coordinate your clothing choices and colors for all family members.
- You should have all of your clothing choices determined, so that you can launder and press them as needed.
- Avoid tanning salons, fake tanning solutions, and sunburns the week before so that your skin has an even tone. Tan lines are impossible to retouch.
- Guys need to get a haircut a week or two prior to the session.

The day before the session

- Get plenty of rest the night before so that you look your best during the session.
- Watch the weather forecast – if you have an outdoor session planned for the spring or fall you may want to bring along a coordinating jacket depending on the temperature.
- Spend a little time thinking about the kind of look you want in your portraits. Plan not only on the smiling “mom” images, but also on showing us your serious or playful side.

The day of the session

- Be sure to bring all clothing accessories for each type of portrait (e.g.: jewelry, hats and belts).
- Make sure finger and toe nails are nicely manicured or polished.
- Bring hair accessories (hair bands, pins, hair spray and barrettes), your personal hairbrush or comb, and makeup for touchups.
- Please be on time so we have the most time possible to create your images.
- If you have some favorite music that might help you relax and get in the “groove”, bring it. We have a stereo system available.
- We know you don’t have your portraits made every day, so we will do our best to make you feel comfortable. Therefore, come ready to HAVE SOME FUN!

The portrait session – what to expect

- We will sit down prior to taking any photographs and look at what you’ve brought to wear and what props you may have. We will then decide on what backdrops or what outdoor locations will be most appropriate.
- In the studio, we offer drinks and snacks. For on-location sessions, we will take a cooler of bottled water.
- For on-location sessions, we may be walking quite a bit. Be prepared with some walking shoes if you feel you will need them.
- While on-location and you wish to change into another outfit, if an establishment is available for you to use to change, you can do so there. If there is no facility for changing, however, you may need to change in your car.

The week after the session

- We will post one or two of our favorite images from your session on our blog within a couple of days. This is a teaser for you to see just how good you looked.
- We will contact you to schedule a time for your in-studio purchasing session.

At the purchasing session – three to four weeks after the portrait session

- We will show you only the images that meet our strict standards. For a senior session, about 20 to 30 retouched images will be shown. For family sessions with many people, up to 10 will be shown. Longer portrait sessions also produce more great images.
- ***Before we send any images to our lab for printing, a minimum of a 50% down-payment is required. It is best to be prepared to make this down-payment at the purchasing session.***
- ***Plan to be at the purchasing session for two to three hours.*** This gives you time to really concentrate and select the images you want without feeling rushed.

Within a week after your purchasing session

- If requested, we will place the images that you ordered in an online gallery for friends and family to order from. This gallery will remain available for two weeks.

Four weeks after your purchasing session

- We will call you when your images are available to pick up.
- ***Be sure to bring the remaining final 50% payment when you pick up your images.***

Remember our guarantee:

If you aren't one hundred percent happy with your images, you don't pay.