

# Outdoor Studios Photography

*A photographic view of life outdoors*

Photography is this wonderful thing that allows people to express themselves. There are people out there who love to get their picture taken and others who shy away from the camera but everyone can look good in print. What's important is to relax, have fun and come prepared.

## Preparing for your photo shoot

### What to know for when getting ready for your individual session

1. GUYS - For the more traditional portraits, a suit or sport coat with a tie is good. Medium to dark sweaters photograph well. For the casual and outdoor photos, comfort is the rule - jeans, khakis and shorts look great.
2. GIRLS – Have ready the colors and outfits you feel best in. Dresses and sweaters are good for a more traditional look. Bright colors, skirts, jeans, or shorts look good for your casual portraits. If there will be outfit changes, bring one dark color outfit with long sleeves. Avoid busy prints and patterns as they distract from the most important part of the portrait - you!
3. SHOES - Shoes may show, so they should compliment your clothing.
4. HAIR - Your portrait session is not the time to experiment with new hair styles or colors. If you do cut your hair, please do so at least a couple of weeks before the session so you are used to styling it.
5. MAKEUP - Makeup for photographs should be slightly heavier than normal. However, too much makeup tends to give you a painted look and too little might not show off your features. A translucent powder is helpful to eliminate shine, especially for oily skin. Since most portraits concentrate on the eyes, great care should be taken to make them look their best.
6. NAILS - Please do not forget the importance of your hands in your portraits. Whether you choose to do your nails yourself or have them manicured, keep them clean and use coordinating colors. Photographs often show your feet as well.
7. FACIAL HAIR - Make sure that you are clean-shaven before your session. Retouching can hide blemishes, but not razor stubble.
8. GLASSES - If you wear glasses most of the time, you will want to wear them in your portraits. To eliminate glare or reflections, have empty frames or remove the lenses from your glasses if at all possible.
9. PROPS - You can use items (including pets, vehicles, sports equipment and musical instruments) that show what you enjoy doing at this time in your life. If you have something special in mind, just let us know.
10. SUNTANS - Do not overdo the sun for a portrait. It looks great, but in moderation. Sunburn can be an expensive problem. It causes facial shine, red noses and cheeks, strap marks, hat lines and peeling, which are fixable but at an additional cost.

## A few days before your session

Here are several things that are important when preparing for a photo shoot.

1. Get a good night's sleep and stay healthy. If you're tired, it will reflect on your face, your overall appearance and your attitude. Try not to stress your body and mind a few days before the shoot. No alcohol, sweets, physical stress or heavy eating either! Continue with your daily exercising on a regular basis.  
Drink fluids sparingly.
2. Shave or wax your legs and armpits a few days before a session. If you're modeling lingerie or open swimwear, take care of the bikini line. If you shave right before the shoot, the skin irritation will negatively impact the outcome, especially with digital photography.
3. Your hair. If you need some trimming, a couple of days before the shoot is the right time. Any coloring should be done well ahead of time.
4. If you don't hire a make-up artist, put a base makeup before a shoot and don't forget your own make up kit. Don't use any gels or special hair treatments to keep it healthy for the shoot.
5. Get your outfits and props ready. **Avoid bright whites, stripes or any other large patterns unless specifically requested.** Solid colors are the best choice. Careful with choosing V-necks. Be prepared a day before to avoid last minute runs. Bring the props that match your outfits in color, texture or by theme.
6. When you select your outfit for the family portrait session, don't just look in the mirror at your outfit. Be sure to think of how it will coordinate with your family members. Even if you favorite sweater is pink, it won't look good next to your son's favorite green and blue striped sweater. All outfits should be coordinated so all family members will blend. Never wear clothing with words, logos or pictures on them; unless the entire family is doing a themed picture (i.e. All wear a sports team logo/gear.)
7. I usually advise families to pick a color scheme. For example, let's pick blue. If the parents of the family wear solid blue on top, the children could coordinate with tops that have blue and white patterns (such as small flowers for girls, a stripe for the boys), and then have the whole family wear the same tone of blue denim jeans or khaki pants.