

Tips For A Great Photo Session

TIPS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

The following guidelines are suggestions only. Take them into consideration, but do what is comfortable for you, and what shows your personality. Most importantly, in any photo, all focus should be on your face.



The focus of any photo should be on the face.

Wear clothing that fits you well; not too tight or sloppy. Solid colors are best. Avoid large or bold patterns and bright colors. They draw attention away from the face. White or pastel colors look best against a light-colored background. Dark colors look best against a darker background. Never wear colors around your face that are similar to your skin tone.

Long-sleeve dresses and shirts are recommended. They draw attention away from the arms so that the focus is on the face.

You've heard it before, and it's true...the camera does add several pounds. Darker clothing will minimize body shape; light colors will do the opposite. Simple lines are slimming, including pants with a flat front, shoulder pads, single-breasted blazers or jackets, and high heels in a full-length portrait. All of the following will make you look heavier: bold patterns, horizontal lines, short sleeves, wide collars or lapels, shiny fabrics, and anything double-breasted.

A v-neck or scoop neckline works best if your neck is short and your face is full. Turtleneck or high-necked clothing is more flattering if you have a long neck and a slender face.

Manicures are not just for women! There's a good chance your hands will show in at least a few of your poses. Men and ladies both should take special care to ensure their hand are presentable.

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MORE TIPS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

Your feet may also show, so make sure shoes, socks and stockings are in keeping with your outfit. No sloppy, dingy sneakers! Outdoor portraits lend themselves to bare feet, especially for girls. A pedicure is in order if you want bare feet to show. Men should have a haircut about one week before the session. A clean-shaven face looks best if they are wearing a suit and tie. Ladies can be photographed whenever they are happiest with their hair. Ladies should also wear their normal amount of makeup.

If you wear eyeglasses, glare can pose an unattractive problem. Glare can be digitally removed after the fact, but this is considered extensive retouching. Depending on the case, there is a \$25-\$35 charge per image for glare removal. Your best alternative is to go where you got your glasses and ask to borrow a pair of identical frames without lenses. Most places are glad to offer this service and it will save you lots of money! You can also try popping out the lenses yourself. This is easiest if you have a small screwdriver that can loosen the tiny screw that holds the lenses tight. Just remember which lens goes where!

Many high school students are wearing braces when it's senior picture time. Braces can be digitally removed, but this is also considered extensive retouching. There is a \$35 charge per image for this service. Some students opt to have the braces removed temporarily for the photo session.

Ladies should wear the amount of makeup that's normal for them.



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GROUP PHOTO TIPS

Everyone should wear the same style clothing... do not mix casual and formal apparel.

Group photos look best if everyone is dressed in similar colors. Mismatched clothing will stand out like a sore thumb in a group, and the viewer won't know where to look first. Again, all focus should be on the faces, not the clothing. For example, have everyone wear blue jeans, or black slacks, or khakis, or whatever color, as long as it's the same on everyone.

The same goes for shirts and tops; everyone should wear the same color. The style doesn't necessarily need to be the same, but the color should be, whether the people are adults or children. Just follow the tips outlined above.

The photo tips for children on the next page apply here if little ones are included in your group photo.



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everyone should
wear the same
style clothing...
do not mix casual
and formal apparel.***

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PHOTO TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Consider your child's age when scheduling your session. Plan around your youngest children. They will be at their best after nap time. Feed them just before they arrive at the studio, but don't forget to bring along their favorite snacks and drink. For newborns, decide ahead whether you'd like them awake or sleeping in the photos, then schedule the appointment accordingly.



For more photo variety, bring several outfits for your child to the session, and decide at the studio which will work best. A change of clothes midway through the session will be a welcome break for everyone. If you prefer all the photos in the same outfit, that's fine, but bring at least one extra change for unexpected accidents! Individual babies and small children can wear most any outfit you prefer. Short sleeves are acceptable. If you have more than one child being photographed, the group photo tips apply to clothing.

Bring along your child's favorite toy(s), blankie, or whatever helps make him or her feel secure. These can also be used as props, if you wish. You are welcome to bring other props from home as well.

On the day of the session, our goal is to capture your child's true personality with relaxed, natural photos. Therefore, we suggest that you do not practice smiling for the camera at home before the session. Most likely this will result in artificial, "cheesy" smiles.

We hope your child's session will be a fun, pleasant experience for everyone, but things don't always go as planned. We will try our best to keep him or her occupied and engaged; we'll sing, dance, act silly...whatever it takes. We are very flexible and laid back at the studio, and don't get upset if your little one is in a cranky mood, won't sit still, or spills juice on her new outfit. If you are nervous and stressed, your child will know it and react in kind. We "go with the flow" and hope you will too, no matter what.

Do not practice smiling for the camera at home before the session.

