

SPECIAL CONCERNS FOR GIRLS

There are certain things girls should be aware of and watch for in their portrait preparation:

ARRIVE EARLY

If you are scheduled from 3:00 - 4:30 and show up late or not ready, you will have less time in the camera room. If you need to touch-up hair, makeup, etc. please arrive early enough to be ready by your start time.

CLOTHING

First of all AVOID STRIPES AND PLAID!! Solids photograph much better! Also bring a variety of color, don't bring 5 blue outfits even if it is your favorite color. Avoid clothing that has wording on it except for your own school logo (letter jacket, uniform). Vary the style because all one look (like tanks) gets boring. Vary the dress level, bring some dressy, some medium and some casual. Remember, it is best to do one or two outfits that mom will like, and then we can do the stuff YOU like.

Our sessions let you do unlimited looks within your time period. This means if you change fast, you get more variety. Spend all day in the dressing room and you get less time in front of the camera. Most people can get 4-5 looks per hour or more if you are quick and work easy. We suggest you bring double what you think we will do so we have more to pick from.

Some shots are close up, others are full length. Plan outfits completely. It is hard to do a full length formal in your suit if all you brought was big old tennis shoes.

Also remember, as a general rule, light clothes look better on lighter backgrounds and darker clothes look better on darker backgrounds. So if you prefer dark, bring dark, if you prefer some of both, bring some of both.

Group your outfits together ON HANGARS. Try bagging accessories on the hangar as well so nothing is forgotten. Earrings and bracelets are more important than necklaces which don't hang correctly in most poses. It is amazing how many people come in with clothes stuffed in a plastic bag and wonder why they are wrinkled! Make sure they are ironed.

If you are doing an outdoor session, most locations do not have places to change. But if you wear a layered outfit, you can add or drop a piece for a different look.

CLOTHING STYLES

Make sure your clothing flatters you. Have tops and bottoms that agree in tone, light or dark.

If you think you have large arms, be careful of sleeveless styles, they can make your arms look fuller.

Wild to mild; we don't really tell you what you can and can not wear. A little sexy is OK, but don't make ALL of your outfits that way. We photograph everything from prom dresses to swimsuits. What one person likes may not be appropriate for the next person. Our philosophy is as long as it is rated PG, we don't care.

CLOTHES FOR BLACK & WHITE

The black and white "glamour" look that is so popular is best with black clothing. The contrast between the skin and black is what makes them so dramatic. So bring some black, wild to mild. Or very dark colors such as navy and brown will work as well. Dark bottoms are also in order.

MAKEUP

Makeup should only be slightly heavier than normal. About like you might wear in the evening. Mascara should be clean and contain no clumps. So if your mascara is old and clumpy, replace it first. Avoid makeup with "sparkles" in it. When you move, it makes a nice shimmer, but in a photo, where you are still, it creates a little white spot that almost looks like a zit. Also avoid makeup with an SPF in it. Although it is good for your skin in the sun, the SPF tends to create a shine. Summer shine can be controlled by using translucent powder that knocks out shine without adding additional color.

If you would like to have your makeup professionally done, we suggest the MAC counter in Nordstrom's at Westfield's West County Mall (the Dove). Not only is MAC one of the best makeups for photography, the makeup artists are VERY good at it's application.

HAIR

Avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session. Let it be natural. Quick easy hairstyle changes during your session are OK, but make it quick or you lose camera time. Artificially bleached hair is often not best, in 10 years you might say "What was I thinking??" Bring your hair care tools and products with you if need be. It IS ok to show up early in curlers if you need to.

Although our photographer tries to help with hair, it is hard to know what your hair "is supposed to look like". So make sure you like the look or let the photographer know your preferences. Hair style is ultimately YOUR responsibility.

JEWELRY

Best tip here, keep it simple. We want the attention on you. Big, shiny jewelry can distract from the real subject, YOU. If you have different jewelry for different outfits, you might put each set of jewelry in a plastic baggie and hang it on the hangar with that outfit.

PROPS

BRING THEM!! Bring props that help define who you are. Some popular choices are: Sports equipment (soccer ball, football, hockey stick, hurdle, whatever), sports uniforms, music instruments (from school tuba to rock guitar), activities (dance leotard & shoes, swimming, hobbies, you name it!), vehicles i.e. motorcycles, cars, trucks; we suggest more than an hour session for vehicle shots).

GLASSES

Most glasses glare and some prescriptions more than others. Your best bet is to check with your optometrist. Most will "loan" you an empty set of frames similar to yours for your photo session. This is particularly helpful if the lenses are strong enough to distort the side of the face seen through the lens.

SUNBURN and TANNING

Tan lines are not attractive in portraits. We suggest you vary your swimsuit top or use a tanning bed to minimize any tan marks. Remember to not overdo your tanning, skin that looks like dark leather is not the most attractive.

AVOID SUNBURN! Sunburn and peeling skin DO NOT photograph well!! Tan, yes, burn, no. If you are a winter or spring session and your tan has faded, you might consider tanning. But don't overdue it so you look too fake-and-bake.

COMPLEXION

We retouch blemishes, so don't worry about minor breakouts. We even now offer an inexpensive option to retouch your entire folio or album!

PETS

Pets are OK as long as they are house broken but it is a good idea to have someone to bring a pet, and then leave with them after. Or bring a pet carrier to contain them while you are being photographed without them. Treats can be helpful to hold a dog's attention.

FRIENDS & PARENTS

Friends or parents are welcome. They can be a help. HOWEVER, if they distract you, it is best to have them pick you up after. You can have a couple of shots with a boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend or sibling at no extra charge.

WEATHER FOR OUTDOOR PORTRAITS

Let's face it, we are at the mercy of mother nature. If it rains, no fretting will do anything about it, we simply have to reschedule. Don't worry about clouds, they actually HELP! But rain falling IS a problem. If it is a morning session, we will take your phone number home with us and call you if we need to cancel due to weather, otherwise, we are on! If it is a daytime and the weather is questionable, simply call the studio.

TATTOOS, SCARS and BRACES

Just let the photographer know if you want tattoos to show or not. It is that easy. Scars are not automatically retouched, but can be removed or softened at your request. Extensive work may have a slight extra charge. Braces? Don't worry. You could have the tops taken off for your photo session, or we can retouch them out by computer. But don't fight smiling, a braces smile is better than a dorky holding back a smile look.

UNDERGARMENTS

It is amazing how many times someone will come in wearing flowered underwear and not realize it is a problem until they go to put on their WHITE PANTS! Or come in wearing a white bra and put on a black sleeveless shirt. Please bring appropriate foundation wear for each outfit. Flesh colored is the best you can hope for. Also, if you need a strapless, bring one. Tucking the straps down usually shows and looks bad. With today's thin fabrics, you might want to carefully select these pieces so they do not give unsightly lines.

FINGER & TOE NAILS

NAILS SHOW! If they have the paint all chipped off, it will show. Many casual shots are done barefoot, so don't forget about those toes! Avoid real bright colors. Natural or basic colors work best. We don't want to draw attention to your neon orange toe nails and they may look really bad with your next outfit!