

Session Planning Tips

Our Shoot Is Coming Soon!

Please take a quick look over the following suggestions as you prepare for our upcoming session.

General Tips

Here are some basic tips for a successful photo shoot.

- Make sure you have checked your email and signed any paperwork (model release, portrait contracts) and made any session fee payments.
- We should have planned out a specific time and place to meet with details such as addresses, maps, what we are driving or wearing to spot us. Quite often we'll be in a Stewart Thomas Photography shirt or else you can spot us lugging around camera and lighting gear! Please be on time or shoot us a message to alert of any delays.
- We also try to give you some idea for what our setup or concept is for the shoot. Double check anything we covered regarding props, clothing, accessories, etc. to be sure you have it before leaving the house. We will often try to help plan clothing together to make sure selections match the location or concept. We don't a rock star in the middle of a forest or a princess in an urban downtown alley.
- Take a few minutes to follow us on Facebook / Instagram and check out our sample photos at www.stewartthomasphotography.com or gallery.stewartthomasphotography.com to get a sense for ideas on posing, clothing choices, or concepts. We also welcome any ideas from your side too so if you have some favorite shots you found online, bring some along and we'll do our best to recreate something similar.
- Don't be shy! Ask questions via email or messenger before the shoot if you have some. We want you to feel comfortable before we even meet in person. There is a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on www.stewartthomasphotography.com you can review as well.
- Layers of clothing and multiple outfits work great to get a mix of looks. A jacket or sweater, button up shirts with undershirt, reversibles, etc. Also consider textures and patterns of clothing – leathers, ripped jeans, buttons, embellishments, contrasting colors – lots of things that can make a picture more interesting. For outdoor shoots we usually have a pop-up changing tent with us. Check out our galleries or just google online to see what works!
- Practice! If you are a bit nervous, let us know. We can take time at the beginning to do a few warm-up shots and cover basic good and bad things to do during the shoot.
- Let us know if you have any special considerations or needs for the shoot so we can do our best to accommodate.

Girls

Extra tips for the ladies.

- Give yourself some time on shoot day to do your hair or makeup, either yourself or at a salon. This can go a long way toward making the day a really great experience.
- If you have a way to quickly mix up hairstyles a few times with clips, ties, etc., that is a good way to get more interest in your pictures. Try a few before you come and bring along the hair accessories to switch it up.
- Shave! Depending on your cultural background, please tidy the various areas you typically would shave to avoid any half-grown spots.
- Tips and Toes. Editing skin is easy, editing fingers and toes is hard. Spend time the day before to remove any old or chipped nail polish from your fingers and toes, and make sure any new polish is in tip top shape.
- Shoes! Try to find those that match well with your outfit, let us know and we can help if needed. Open toed sandals with shorts/dresses, high heels with formal dresses or jeans, cool sneakers for urban looks, cowboy boots for country, etc. Bring shoes that are easy to get on/off as we often mix in some barefoot looks to get a softer feel to some scenes.
- Form fitting (and age-appropriate) clothing comes across better on girls. Photographers attempt to accentuate the good and tone down the bad through posing, and the clothing can help or hurt that. Let us know if you need planning assistance before the shoot. Showing a little leg, shoulder, belly or curves can enhance the artistic beauty or innocence of a photo, while baggy pants or oversized shirts can result in sort of a “blob” look.

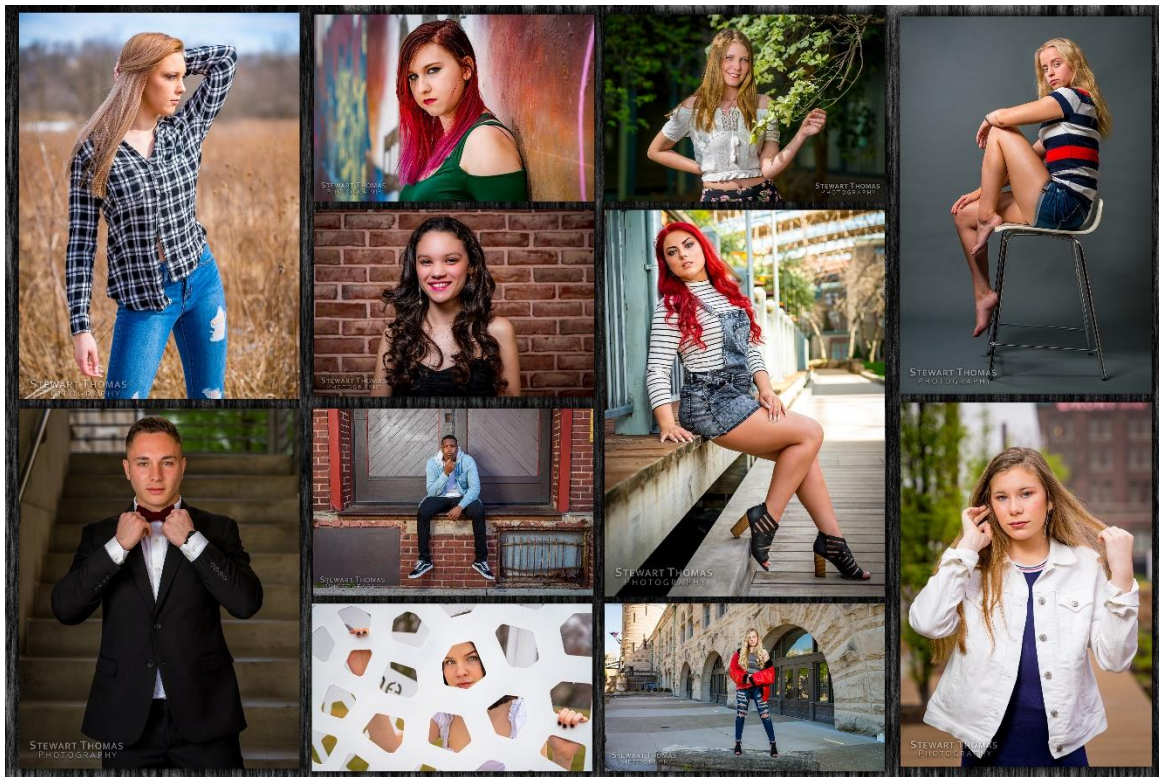
Guys

Short and sweet for you!

- Shave! Professional grade cameras capture all the tiny details. Unless we are going for a grunge or cave-man vibe, take time to trim up all the spots on your beard, ears, neck, nose, eyebrows, etc.
- Shirts! Easy to switch up shirts on guys, so grab a few you feel good in and we can swap around or layer them for different looks. Solid colors, simple patterns, buttons are great choices. Avoid baggy tees or any big logos or writing unless we are going for a specific concept.
- Shoes! Try to find a good set of shoes that match your outfit well and don't look 20 years old.
- Belt! Most pants look better with a matching belt.
- Watch! There are a few poses we can do with a timeless watch that looks nice, like a gold, silver or leather one. Not a plastic or digital one.

In Summary

Nice job taking a few minutes to review these tips, we appreciate it and it will help our session go much smoother!



Thanks! Tom & Helena

