

## Portrait Session Expectations



**Philosophy** – I am a storyteller. I **LOVE** to tell visual stories about life. It is all about enjoying those “**magical moments**” between people, animals, etc. This idea is my approach to photography. You can expect to have a laid back session full of fun, laughter and bloopers.

**LOCATION** - The location of the shoot can add a whole lot of meaning and fun to your photos. The images will be focused on you, but a great background adds a ton of color, texture, lines, and light. In general, we shoot in either a natural or an urban location.

- ✓ **Natural location** are gorgeous open fields, parks, backyards, treed areas and more. They work great for playing and focusing on each other. The best time of day to shoot in fields is just before sunset, so we can get some magical golden light!
- ✓ **Urban location** are cool alleys, sidewalks, train stations, buildings, and so much more. They have great color, texture and variety! We can shoot urban spots at pretty much any time of day, since there’s lots of great shade.

**INVESTMENT** - Remember that the purpose of capturing these images is to have memories for years to come. This is YOU **investing** in your future!

My starting prices are not concrete because all of my packages are designed to be **customized for you**. If you want me as your photographer, we’ll figure out a price that works for both of us, assuming I’m available on the date. My goal is to make sure you get the photos you want, at a price that is right for all of us. Need a payment plan? Don’t be afraid to ask! I’m willing to work with you financially to ensure all of your wishes come true.

Please note: In the state of Texas, photography is subject to Texas State and Local Sales and Use Taxes (“sales tax”). As a permitted business operating in the State of Texas, Patti Richardson Photography is required by the State of Texas to collect sales tax on all your purchases and remit those sales taxes to the Comptroller’s office. Please note that none of the prices on this website include these sales taxes. The state and local sales taxes (which combine to 8.25%) are added to the purchase price at the time of the sale, and then remitted by Patti Richardson Photography to the State of Texas.

**BUSINESS BASICS OF YOUR SESSION** - When you decide to book, all details and time frames will be worked out via phone and email. We will all sign a contract and a non-refundable deposit will be made to ensure the appointment will be met. If for some reason the appointment must be canceled we will all do our best to reschedule within a specified time frame. Your deposit will be good for 90 days. Full payment must be received before the session (time frames vary per session type).

- ✓ I accept credit and debit (card via Square), checks and cash. Checks must clear the bank before any proofs or images are distributed. Make checks payable to **Patti Richardson Photography**
- ✓ For more specific details regarding payments, please contact me.

**BEFORE THE SESSION** - This is **YOUR STORY**, not mine. Therefore, I am available to consult with regarding any details that need to be worked out throughout our entire experience together. This is a group effort, and I want it to be the best possible for you. You can feel free to contact me regarding concerns, ideas, for brain storming etc. The best shoots are ones that are coordinated efforts and the client is a part of the creative vision from the start.

**DAY OF THE SHOOT** - The most important part of the session is to **TRUST** me. It is very important that we all meet at the designated place on time.

- ✓ If it is possible, we can arrange to arrive a few minutes early.
- ✓ The first part of the session is the meet and greet.
- ✓ Getting to know new clients and catching up on old.
- ✓ I like to let the kiddos relax a little and get to know me.
- ✓ Even though we may have a tight schedule, this time is important.
- ✓ Depending on the type of shoot a change of clothing may or may not be possible. Most of the time it will be fine, but we need to discuss it beforehand so we can plan for a very quick change.

### **KIDS & FAMILIES SESSIONS**

- ✓ It is very important that children have been fed and well rested. It is encouraged to bring water to keep everyone hydrated (especially in Texas weather). Scheduling the shoot around them is best. You know kids schedule and what situations work best for them. I will rely on you to help me know and understand your children and family's needs.
- ✓ Getting frustrated because someone isn't cooperating is understandable and generally expected when working with the kids. I find that going with the flow of the child is best rather than trying to get that one perfect shot. It is better to get a handful of great photos than 20 bad ones.
- ✓ Outfit changes are generally discouraged for large families but for kid sessions, an outfit changed is encouraged as long as it is quick and easy.
- ✓ Coordinating a large bunch of people and kids is challenging. Please be patient with the process and help things run smoothly. It can get tricky but if we all work together we will get some amazing photographs!
- ✓ We will go over all of this and more in the planning stage.

**SENIORS AND YOUNG MODELS** - This is your time to shine and let that personality loose!

- ✓ Changes of clothing and accessories are fun and a great way to bring out your special flair.
- ✓ I love working with teens.
- ✓ They are creative and fun and always ready with fresh ideas.
- ✓ The best way to prepare for this type of shoot is have some fun outfit choice and creative ideas for locations.
- ✓ Consulting beforehand is a must in order to truly capture your teen's personality and taste.
- ✓ *I do offer retouching and blemish correction on all my photos.*

**COUPLES AND ENGAGEMENT:** Have fun coordinating your outfits & helping with locations ideas.

- ✓ Remember, this is your story so it needs to reflect your relationship with each other.
- ✓ This is this type of shoot that I try to direct less and let the couple engage with each other in a natural way.
- ✓ I find that in doing this the end result is more natural than a staged pose (although we may do a few of those too!)

**MATERNITY:** To me, nothing is more **BEAUTIFUL** than a mother expecting!

- ✓ What a wonderful time to capture in a growing families' life.
- ✓ The mother will be the most important factor in these sessions.
- ✓ We will consult beforehand to make this session as meaningful and relaxing as possible.
- ✓ Maternity and newborn packages go hand in hand.
- ✓ It is this time we want to get you on the books to prepare for the arrival of you sweet bundle.

**CLOTHING:** There are no "rules" when it comes to what to wear for your portraits.

- ✓ The most important thing is that you feel comfortable, and like yourself.
- ✓ Remember: these portraits are about you, not your shoes!

Here are a few **guidelines** to help you pick out an outfit that will be flattering, show your personality, and bring the attention where it's meant to be: on your happy, smiling face!

**COORDINATE:** Coordinating your outfit's show that you are a group - a family. You belong together.

- ✓ First, let's be clear that this doesn't mean everyone should match. Instead think about the style of clothes, and coordinate that. If you're going a bit dressier, make sure everyone is looking sharp!
- ✓ If you want a more natural look, let everyone wear something very casual and comfortable.
- ✓ Choose colors that complement each other. Pick similar tones and colors in the same family. Lay out all your outfits, and see if they look nice together.

**AFTER THE SESSION:**

- ✓ I will work to have your online proof gallery available within 4 weeks of the shoot.
- ✓ At that time, you will need to look at your online proof images and let me know if you are ready to move forward to the next step.
- ✓ If you decide you would like to purchase prints or other specialty items, the images will be available up to 90 days for high quality printing using my online store. You will be able to purchase your prints or other specialty items directly from the online store on your schedule and it will ship directly to your home.
- ✓ I **HIGHLY** recommend printing your images through this service because your local printing service is not calibrated to my computer screen and you could end up purchasing images that does not satisfy you.