**Preparation for Your**

**Portrait Session:**

An amazing family portrait session is a collaborative effort between you and me, the photographer. You can help get the portrait you desire by following a few basic tips:

Clothes

* Wear clothes that make you feel **comfortable and reflect your personality.**
* Coordinate your outfit from head to toe. Also be AWARE of colors and patterns that others in your family are wearing, you don’t want to clash.
* Keep the tonal range of clothing in the same group; don't mix lights & darks in the same outfit.
* Select 2-3 complementing solid colors in tones such as greens, blues, purples, burgundies, khakis, black, navy and denim.
* Avoid large prints, stripes, busy patterns and bright colors - these overwhelm and create distractions in your portrait.
* A black shirt or top is always a good choice.
* Be sure the clothes you select fit properly, especially shirt collars.
* Medium to dark clothes look the best on dark backgrounds.
* Medium to light colors look the best on lighter colored backgrounds.
* Earth tones are best for outdoor portraits, but it is ok to wear a pop of color.

Hair

* Wear your hair in your normal style.
* Do not change your hairstyle in the days before your portrait session.
* If you want to get a haircut, schedule it one week before your portrait session.
* A fresh shave is important for men. Neatly trim beard or mustache.
* Bring your hair care/styling products for touch-ups. Especially for beach sessions, it can get very windy so prepare your hair.

Skin

* Minor blemishes and scars will be removed by retouching.
* Avoid sunburn and tan lines.
* Girls keep make-up simple; it is best to wear a style that you normally wear.
* Avoid makeup with sparkles and SPF (can cause shiny skin). Please free to bring your makeup to the session for touch-ups.
* Your nails will show in some portraits. For guys and gals be sure fingernails and toenails are freshly manicured.

Jewelry

* Keep jewelry simple and to a minimum.

Props

Props are recommended. Bring props that are a part of your family’s life and personality.

For example:

* Hats
* Sunglasses
* Hobby Items
* Pets (Pets are welcome, but please let me know advance. Bring a leash and toys/treats to keep their attention.)

Also just as important as the clothes, hair and props is the place you choice to have your session. If you have a place that is really special you to your family let me know. I will scope it out so I can prepare for our session there.

If you should have any questions please call me! 270-903-4500