

SENIOR PORTRAIT SESSIONS



BLS Captures | 

The Session Guide

Let's create the photos of your dreams.

Welcome, friend! If you made it here, that means you must be trusting lil 'ole me with your photos! I can't freaking wait. This guide is your one-stop shop to prepare for your photoshoot...

Showing up to the same location at an agreed upon time is just not enough to create photos that you're going to swooon over! And I want you swooning!

So take 10 minutes to intentionally walk through this guide! I promise you, it will be every bit worth it!





Start with vision.



Who are you? What makes you? Where are your favorite places to go? Favorite things to do?

We could absolutely go to the nearest “pretty location” and take a bunch of pretty photos at sunset with you looking at the camera like a model. And hey - if that’s your vibe, let’s do it! But if that doesn’t represent who you are, or your story, let’s go deeper.

I want to take an intentional and collaborative approach to these photos. From the location, to what you wear, any themes, and beyond. The more vision and ideas you can give me, the better. If you have a go-to thought, tell me!

And even if you don’t think that your idea is “photo-worthy”, ask me first! What makes photos meaningful is not the beauty/vanity, but the story they tell.

Need Location Ideas?

If you are local to me, here are some locations I love to shoot at. If we are not shooting in my local state, reach out directly for location ideas & assistance!



Delt Church Park — LaGrange

[View Gallery](#)

Open fields, trails, creek, pond

Gene Stratton Porter — Rome City

[View Gallery](#)

Wildflower fields, gazebo, lake access

Matae Park — Fort Wayne

[View Gallery](#)

Open fields, pond, trails

Looks Like Virgo — Fort Wayne

[View Gallery](#)

Monochromatic studio

Downtown — Fort Wayne

[View Gallery](#)

Parking garages, rooftops, courthouse

Bixler Lake — Kendallville

[View Gallery](#)

Lake, beach area, trails, willow tree

Silver Beach — St. Joe, Michigan

[View Gallery](#)

Beach

Botanical Conservatory — Fort Wayne

[View Gallery](#)

Indoor botanical conservatory

Flower Field — Mongo Area

[View Gallery](#)

Beautiful remote private flower field

Wooded Nickle Records — Fort Wayne

[View Gallery](#)

Record store

What To Wear & Picking Your Outfits



What you wear can make or break your photos! Take my word for it. :)

Imagine that we're painting a picture... the scene has been painted, and we're about to paint you into it! What you wear is like the quality of paint you use to create a piece of art. Poor quality, and the art suffers!

Take into account the location you are shooting at and the season you are shooting in. The location has its own vibe, colors, textures, and theme. Back to the painting analogy, think about your location as a painting that is already painted, and now we have to paint YOU into the picture.

What are we going to have you wearing? What will look best against the backdrop? What makes most sense in that scene?



Choosing Your Colors

You want to stand out from your surroundings, but still look like you belong and fit there.

That's why I always recommend neutrals, whites, creams, and earthy-toned colors that visually fit into the natural/earthy surroundings we are shooting in!

You want to avoid the highly-manufactured / bright / aggressive colors and tones that just don't look like they belong in a natural setting, because they will stand out like a sore thumb, and will end up looking out of place in the photo.

That said, One or two pops of earthy colors pair nicely with neutrals everywhere else. For example, If you do have a pop of color in the outfits, it's nice to not overcrowd that color (or 2) with other ones. On the right are some recommended neutrals and colors!



Make sure your outfits...

...have movement!

Make sure you can move in your outfit very easily, and it's a huge added bonus if the piece itself moves as well! TRY: Flowy, airy, fun, textured, soft, etc... AVOID: Stiff, crisp, business, startchy, etc...

...are timeless.

Look for a something you won't regret wearing in 5 years. Maybe something that has already stood the test of time. Use what I call: "The 5 and 5 rule." 5 years ago you could have probably worn it, and in 5 years you could still wear it!

...feel like you.

Make sure it has that classic, trademark, YOU Stamp on it! Whether it's something old or new!

Avoid: crisp or starchy clothes that make you feel constricted sports/athletic wear, big logos, and any trendy patterns.





FAQS

What if our shoot gets rained out or has bad weather?

I absolutely want you to be excited about your weather conditions, so I always keep in touch with clients in the days preceding our shoot if the weather looks yucky. Anything from cloudy to sunny is not something I reschedule for, but intense rain or unsafe weather is something I am happy to reschedule with no extra fees.

What if I just do not know what to wear at all?

Let me know that! I have so many ideas, don't worry. Try to follow the guidelines in this guide. Message me photos, and bring options to your shoot! We'll make sure you look amazing. :)

How soon will we get back photos?

My promise is that you will have 10 preview photos within 24 hours, and the full final gallery and slideshow within 2 weeks from our shoot date.

What's the best way to contact you?

Through your client portal in my CRM (just email me back from any of the emails I've sent to you). A week out from your shoot, I'll send you my phone number so we can iron out final details over text!

Do you offer photo retouching?

I do not. I believe that natural and real is the most beautiful and authentic way to be photographed, and it's for that reason that I don't offer heavy retouching and editing. I spot edit temporary blemishes and smooth out skin texture, but professional retouching is something that perpetuates a false standard of beauty, so I choose not to do it.



Shoot Prep Checklist

Here's what we want to
make sure we tackle
before the shoot day...

☐ Let's nail down your location.

Once you have a location in mind, let me know! If you need help - I'm just an email away. :) I'll be sure to reach out if we haven't discussed this yet.

☐ I want to hear your vision!

What are you dreaming of with these photos? Something specific come to mind? Send me any of your ideas, your Pinterest boards, anything! If you're struggling to come up with something, reach out to me and I'll set up a Google Meet call to discuss!

☐ Let's finalize your outfits.

Once you have some good ideas, make sure you send me some photos of your clothes laid out (or on you) so I can see what you're thinking! I'll give any feedback as needed, and then bring multiple options to shoot day if you can, just in case!

Can't wait!

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