

Frequently Asked Questions About Portrait Photography

What should I wear?

In most cases, you should dress in a manner most familiar to those that will receive the photos. As an example, for a business image a suit may be appropriate. For adults in a family photo, slacks and a sweater are common. For senior portraits, worn-out blue jeans and casual shirts are very popular. Long sleeves help reduce distractions. In addition, the clothing selection must also be appropriate for the location. Obviously, a subject wearing a suit posed by a lake would appear out of place.

Some seniors bring a few outfits but I recommend no more than two or three. Extra earrings, necklaces, bracelets, hats and other accessories are great because they can quickly be mixed with multiple outfits. A school jacket, sports item, or band instrument can also produce some really unique photos.

What colors work best?

In general, solid colors (or very subtle patterns) usually work best. Large bold patterns tend to pull the attention towards the outfit and away from the face. Earthy colors (brown, green, rust, wine, etc.) look great outside. Black makes you look thinner and white is the opposite. Also, if you have a very light complexion, white can make you look excessively pale.

For family pictures, a common theme with similar colors works best. This keeps the picture from looking "busy" and allows the faces to stand out. Even if you cannot get exact matching colors for the entire group, try to stay with a common level of brightness rather than having a few people in white and a few others in black. For extended families, having each family with a unique color sometimes helps the eye group families together.

What is the best time of day for my portraits?

Indoor studio portraits can be taken any time of the day but the best time to take an outdoor portrait is in the hours just before sunset. The sun is low, thus creating rich details and providing a soft red tint that enhances skin tones. Just after sunrise is also a great time to take an outdoor portrait but generally early mornings may be inconvenient and most people don't look their best just after they've woken up.

The worst time for an outdoor portrait is in the hours before and after noon (10 to 4, depending on the time of year) because the sun is too high and its' light is too harsh. The result is an image that is too bright, too dark, or both. It is very difficult to properly balance highlights and shadows when the sun is so high. The harsh mid-day sun makes natural smiles difficult plus the temperatures and humidity will quickly wilt your hair and your patience.

What is the best location for outdoor portraits?

The Bradley studio is located on a heavily wooded lot with a nearby lake that provides a wide variety of natural outdoor settings. Also nearby is Shawnee Mission Park (a 1250 acre county park).

If you prefer we will come to your location. Examples of a good locations would be near an old log building, weathered shed, building that is falling down, on a rusted classic car or old farm equipment. Other good backgrounds include rocks, large trees, old fences, large gardens, brick buildings, alleys... etc. We generally recommend avoiding locations where you will see signs of civilization in the background (homes, roads, cars, signs, toys, etc).

If you want us to come to your location it's important that we avoid the harsh sun. Picking a location with shade (in both the foreground and background) or scheduling your session late in the day to avoid harsh shadows is important so we may want to visit your location in advance to plan our session.

How can I get GREAT portraits?

One of the most important factors in getting great pictures is your attitude. If you're excited, happy, and have a positive attitude it shows up on every shot. In contrast, it's nearly impossible to get a great shot of a bored and uninterested subject SO GET FIRED UP! We strive to make these sessions fun and low stress.

The photographer will make posing suggestions but don't be afraid to try something different. The photographer doesn't expect you to be a statue. After you take a few shots in one position move your head to different angle, change your sitting positions, hook your thumb on your pockets, fold your arms, etc. Make yourself comfortable and remember that it's **OK to move around and have fun**. We want this to be a positive experience for you. Also, not every pose needs to be a huge smile. Let some of your pictures reflect your serious side.

Since this is digital photography, it costs the same to shoot 25 images as it does to shoot 250 images. So put your inhibitions aside and have fun with this opportunity.

What else should I bring?

- Bring make-up, comb, and a mirror. When shooting outside, it's not uncommon for wind to blow your hair or wilt your make-up a bit.
- Anything special that tells the world who you really are:
 - Car / Motorcycle
 - Band instrument
 - Sports jacket
 - Hobby related prop (Camera, bike, etc)
- Pets can be included in your portrait but make sure the photographer is aware of this in advance.

What about retouching?

All images that you purchase will be retouched to remove blemishes and background distractions at no charge. Major image manipulation, such as face or body transplants, is also available for an additional fee.

Do I get to keep the digital images?

In most cases you do not. Unless you purchase the reproduction rights, the photographer retains all rights. The digital images are his creation and all photographs must be purchased through him.

What should I expect?

The first thing we will do is sit down and talk for a few minutes. We'll explain the process, we'll discuss possible locations, and we'll get a better understanding of your needs and preferences. You'll have an opportunity to explain the things that are most important to you and together we'll plan your session.

The session will take one or two hours depending the number of outfits and the number of locations. The actual number of images will vary but 100 or more shots would not be uncommon.

Following the session, it will take about 15 minutes for the images to be downloaded from the camera and prepared for your review. These images will be directly out of the camera so they've not been retouched yet. Some of the images will be great and others can be quickly eliminated. If you want to purchase any of the images, we will discuss any retouching you would like performed prior to printing.

Payment (credit card, checks, or cash) is required when the prints are ordered. Prints will be ready for you to pick up approximately 7 – 10 days after they are ordered.

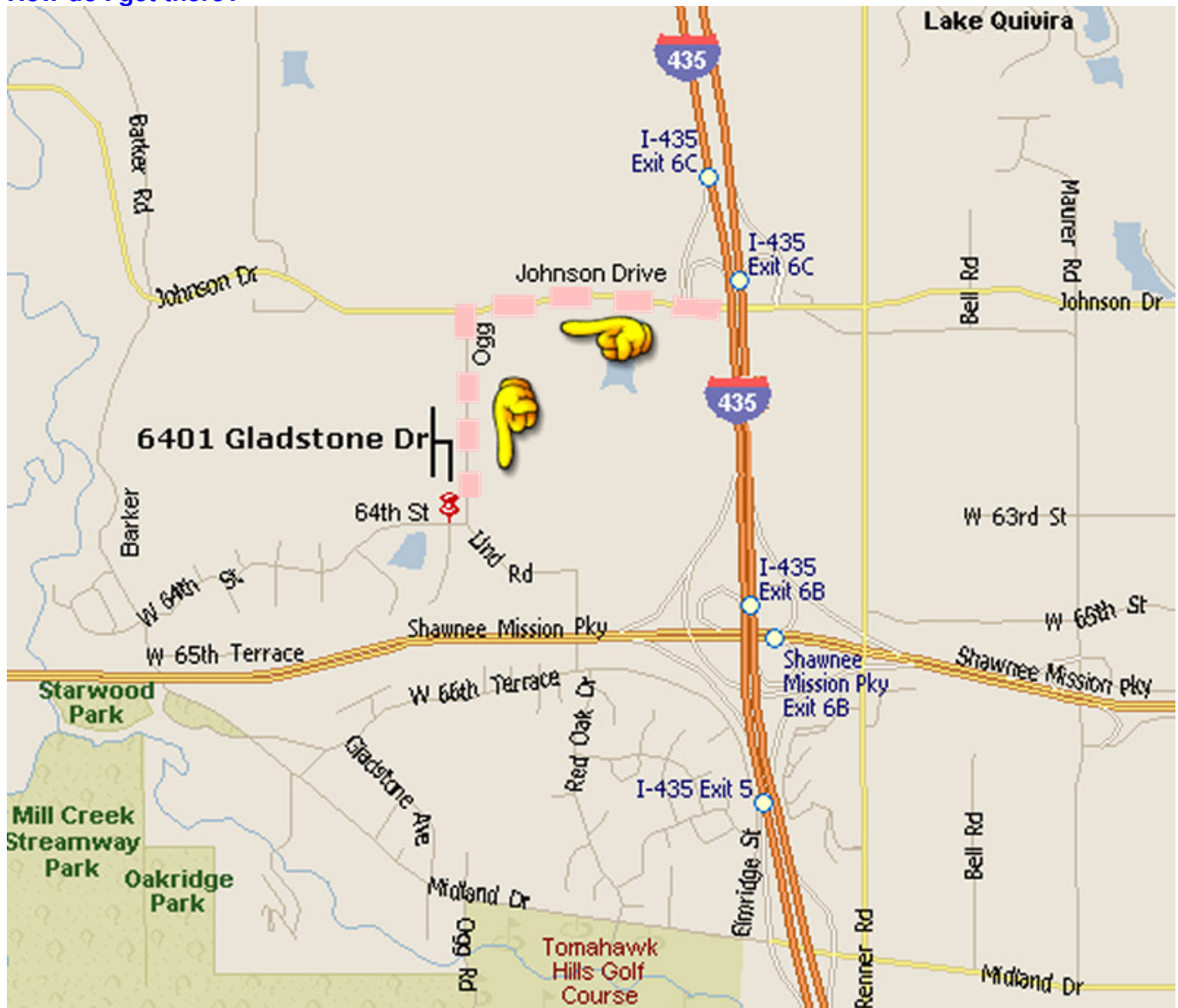
What if I don't like any of the images?

This would be a very rare occurrence (in fact, it's never happened before) but your satisfaction is important to us. If, after reviewing the digital images, you decide you don't like any of them you have absolutely no obligation to buy any prints and there will be no sitting fee. You have absolutely no risk.

What's next?

Contact Tom Bradley, 913-248-8632, Tom@BradleyPhotoq.com to schedule an appointment or to discuss any questions you may have.

How do I get there?



- Go to **I-435** & Johnson Drive
- Go WEST on **Johnson Dr** (Travel approx. 0.5 miles)
- Turn SOUTH (left) on **Oggs Rd.** (Travel approx. 0.5 miles)
- Turn WEST (right) on **64th Street** into “Enchanted Lake Estates”
- We are the first house on the left (Corner of 64th & Gladstone)

Tom Bradley, 6401 Gladstone Drive, Shawnee, KS 66218, 913-248-8632