

Crouse Photography

Engagement Session Tips

It's that crazy time between saying "Yes!" and saying "I do!" It's also time for your Engagement Session! This is a great opportunity to get fun, romantic and playful photographs of the two of you. It is also a great opportunity for you and your wedding photographer to get to know each other. The following tips are designed to help you make the most out of your portrait session.

Because these images are designed to showcase YOU and not your clothes, here are some clothing tips:

- Avoid logos, numbers, lettering and words on your clothing
- Wear what you usually wear – this is not the time to try out a new style which could make you feel uncomfortable
- Stay away from loud stripes and patterns – go for texture instead. In general, solid or tone-in-tone colors work best. Mid-tones (beige, blue, browns, photograph better than very light colors. If it is lighter than your skin tone it will demand attention away from the face. Stay away from bright reds, yellows, and orange colors. Think about clothes and colors creating a mood. What mood do you want your pictures to convey? Playful? Romantic? Formal?
- Avoid too much contrast between the two of you, i.e. your white blouse, his black shirt
- Select colors that go well together. The eye is always drawn to the lightest color in an image. If using several colors, choose the lighter color for the top and the darker color for the pants or skirt, so the eye is lead towards the face.
- Feel free to bring some small props – items that are meaningful to you are cool!
- Bring some mints if you wish – but no gum!
- To avoid unsightly bulges and creases, don't put too much stuff in your pockets
- Wear clothes that fit the general mood of the location you have chosen. Don't wear formal wear and high heels to a park or beach, and don't wear jeans and a T-shirt for a studio shoot.
- Your choice of clothing for the upper body will be more important than pants or skirt selections. Generally, long sleeves are better than short sleeves or no sleeves, as it draws attention away from the face. However, this is simply a guideline. For beach portraits, short or sleeveless tops are fitting.

Hair and Make-up Tips:

- Have your hair and make-up done before the session begins
- Now is not the time to try something completely different! Stick with comfortable hair and make-up styles
- Bring a small touch-up kit: hair spray, gel, lipstick/gloss, etc.
- Use lotion on your hands, make sure your hands and nails are well manicured
- If Murphy's Law reigns supreme and you break out or have blemishes – don't worry and Don't try to cover it up! I can retouch your images and remove the nefarious zits!

Location Suggestions:

- We want this to be a fun and relaxed session, so pick a place where you'll feel Comfortable being photographed
- Different locations have different atmospheres;
 - Downtown is funky, fun and urban
 - The beach is romantic and great at sunrise and sunset
 - the Park has fun stuff to climb on, hang on, and play on!
 - How about where you met? Where you had your first date? Your favorite hangout?

Here are a couple suggestions:

War Memorial Park, Poor House Farm, Clear Brook Park, Cacapon State Park, Antietam National Battlefield, Jim Barnett Park, Hagerstown City Park, Virginia State Arboretum, Dinosaur Land, Wilson's zoo, Greenbrier State park, Hagerstown Ice Skating rink, Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, Downtown Winchester or Martinsburg, A theme park, a winery, a farm, Thurmont waterfall, Lurray caverns and garden maze, A farmers market, A historical mansion, A carnival, a circus, a zoo, a festival, a car show or even a Sun's baseball game. Whatever fits your personality, be creative.

Most important tip? Have fun! Be yourselves!