



HOCKING HILLS
PORTRAITS

PORTRAIT PLANNING GUIDE

Are you ready for your close-up?

What to wear, what to bring, and how to feel like yourself in front of the camera.

FAMILIES · SENIORS · COUPLES

WELCOME

Hello! I am so excited for your upcoming session. This guide answers the questions I hear most: what to wear, what to bring, and how to feel great in front of the camera. Every session is a little different, so use the notes below to find what matters most for yours.

LANCASTER QUICK

Short, simple, and close to the car. You can pack light. Outfits, hair, and confidence are the main things to plan.

HOCKING HILLS

Real Hocking Hills scenery, so shoes, packing, and timing matter (sunrise is best). Look for the **HOCKING HILLS** tag.

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

- ☐ Treat everyone's outfits as **one look**: two or three colors that complement each other, plus one bolder pop.
- ☐ Wear **comfortable, clean shoes** that match your outfit. On Hocking Hills trails, practical footwear is required for safety.
- ☐ Be **hydrated and well rested**, and go easy on alcohol, soda, sugar, and salt the day before.
- ☐ Skip the **gum, phone in your pocket, and hair tie on your wrist**.
- ☐ Little ones? Share **nap and mealtime schedules** with me when you book, so we can choose a session time that works.
- ☐ Bring your **confidence**. Pose coaching is included, so you don't have to know how to pose.



I AM HERE TO HELP

Planning can feel overwhelming, and you have an expert on your team. Text me at **740-630-7737** or email **info@hockinghillsportraits.com** with any question, big or small. I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

YOUR COUNTDOWN

A simple timeline so nothing sneaks up on you.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ Choose outfits for everyone, try them on, and make sure they work together as one palette.
- ☐ Touch up color or highlights. Don't forget your roots.
- ☐ Book hair and makeup if you'd like professional help (artists are listed on page 6).
- ☐ If you plan to try something new, like a lip color, practice wearing it now.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- ☐ Get your haircut now so it settles in. Avoid radical changes right before your session.
- ☐ Tidy your eyebrows. Eyebrows matter!
- ☐ Check that your shoes are clean and comfortable, and that they match your outfit.

THREE DAYS BEFORE

- ☐ Give your skin a break from tanning and strong sun. Redness shows up much more in portraits than in person.
- ☐ If you have tan lines, choose clothing that covers them.
- ☐ Take care of your hands and nails. They will be part of many poses.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Lay out every outfit, shoe, and accessory, and steam or iron as needed.
- ☐ Drink plenty of water, go easy on alcohol, soda, sugar, and salt, and get a good night's sleep.
- ☐ Text me any last-minute questions.

SESSION DAY

- ☐ Skip foods with dye that can stain your lips or mouth (icing, candy, popsicles).
- ☐ Pack water, your touch-up kit, and anything you need for the location.
HOCKING HILLS sessions also need bug spray and any medications (inhaler, antihistamines).
- ☐ Leave the gum, phone in your pocket, and hair tie on your wrist behind.
- ☐ Take a deep breath and enjoy it. That's my job to make easy.

WHAT TO WEAR



One palette, many people: creams, sage, and soft neutrals tie this whole family together.

COORDINATING A GROUP

- Treat everyone's clothing as if it were **one outfit**.
- Stick to **two or three colors** that complement each other, plus one bolder pop of color.
- Think about the **setting**. Your wardrobe should complement the location.
- Planning a big print? Consider the colors and style of the room where it will hang.
- Need ideas? Search Pinterest for "coordinating family outfits."

CHOOSE WITH CARE

- **Neon and very bright colors** can cast a color tint onto skin.
- **Bold patterns, logos, and words** pull attention away from faces. If you love a bold print, tell me and we'll plan around it.
- **High necklines** like turtlenecks and scarves can shorten the neck line. Pick them on purpose.



Texture and layers add dimension without distracting from the face.

WHAT LOOKS GREAT

- **Layers.** Jackets, sweaters, and cardigans add dimension.
- **Accessories.** Jewelry and scarves, especially pieces with meaning, like a class ring or heirloom.
- **Solids, subtle patterns, and textures** keep the focus on you.
- **Open necklines.** V-necks and scoops elongate the neck and show off collarbones.
- **Classic, timeless styles.** Choose something you'll still love in twenty years.

SHOES, LITTLE ONES & HOCKING HILLS

FOOTWEAR

Your feet will show, so keep shoes clean and matching your outfit. Coordinate socks too: no white socks with dark pants and dark shoes, and no loud neon patterns.

If we're shooting on location, **everyone** should bring comfortable walking shoes. Wear them until we arrive, then change into heels if you like. Stilettos and grass don't mix.

Safety over fashion: at the Hocking Hills State Parks, I require practical footwear on the trails. You're welcome to change shoes for photos once we're at our spot.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

Little ones do best when a session feels like play. Please let me be the one to guide them: gentle encouragement beats pressure every time, and it keeps the mood fun and meltdown-free. Naps and mealtimes are best settled when we choose your session time at booking, so please share your little ones' schedules then. Once your date and time are set, it's much harder to adjust.

HOCKING HILLS

WHAT TO BRING

- Practical walking shoes
- Drinking water
- Bug spray
- Any medications you may need, such as an inhaler or antihistamines
- A small hair and makeup kit for touch-ups
- A light layer for changing weather
- Jackets or accessories for quick look changes, plus any outfit changes your session includes

HOCKING HILLS

GOOD TO KNOW

- **Sunrise is best.** Sessions in the parks are best done at sunrise. The parks start filling with tourists around 10:00 AM, and it becomes very difficult to host a portrait session with so many people. Crowds also take away from the experience when you're surrounded by tourists.
- **Trails close at dusk.** Park trails and caves close at dusk for safety, so we plan sessions with plenty of daylight.
- **Weather happens.** If the forecast looks rough, I'll reach out and we'll talk through options together.
- **Quick Sessions in Lancaster** (Decorative Arts Center, Georgian Museum, or downtown) are short and close to parking, so you can skip the hiking gear.

HAIR

PROFESSIONAL HAIR & MAKEUP (OPTIONAL)

Not required, but a professional can be a real confidence boost on session day if it fits your budget. A few of my favorites are **Savannah Gordon Hair and Makeup** (Lancaster), **Katilyn Boyer Makeup Artistry** (Lancaster, makeup only), and **Hey Pretty Beauty** (Columbus). You'll find current contact details on my Preferred Partners page:

hockinghillsportraits.com/preferred-partners-list

If we're starting early, ask about early appointments when you book.

GENERAL HAIR TIPS

- Avoid radically changing your hair before your session.
- Get haircuts about a week ahead so they look their best.
- Touch up your roots. Refresh highlights about two weeks before.
- Tame flyaways as best you can. They stand out in photos.
- If you have bangs, make sure they don't hit at eye level. The camera will focus on the hair instead of your eyes.
- Quick hair changes during your session are great. Just keep them easy and fast so you don't lose camera time.

STYLING YOUR OWN HAIR

- **Product is your friend.** Use leave-in mousse, thermal protectant, hairspray, and a pomade with a brow brush for flyaways.
- Choose **aerosol** hairspray over spritz.
- **Blow-dry** rather than air-drying on session day.
- **Curling?** Use heat protectant and curl away from your face. Hold for 8 seconds, then let the curl cool for 8 seconds before touching it. The longer a curl cools, the longer it lasts.



Simple, polished, and unmistakably you.



MAKEUP

You are not required to wear makeup for your session. I love a full face when it makes sense, and I work with bare faces all the time. Makeup looks very different in portraits than in person, so if you're doing your own, these guidelines will help.

AVOID FLASHBACK

- Use **matte** products. Avoid shimmer, glitter, and "dewy" finishes. They reflect light back to the camera.
- As a general rule, avoid ingredients ending in "oxide."
- **Sunscreen can cause flashback too.** If we'll be in strong sun, apply it at least 30 minutes ahead and blot well. Your skin's health comes first.

FOUNDATION

- Use a **silicone-based** primer and makeup.
- Go light on foundation and concealer. I'll correct blemishes and undereye circles in editing, and less makeup looks more natural.
- Match your shade to the rest of your skin. Sephora will shade match and sample for free.

LIPS

- Lip color and gloss look lovely. Practice wearing it beforehand so you're comfortable.
- For couples and families, there is almost always kissing. Choose something that won't smudge or transfer.
- Match your blush to your lip tone.

LASHES

- False lashes are fantastic in portraits, but only apply them yourself if you're experienced.
- Please don't try false lashes for the first time on session day.
- Skip heavy mascara and clumps. The camera magnifies them.

EASY PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

PRODUCT	BUDGET-FRIENDLY	SPLURGE
Loose powder	ColourPop No Filter Loose Powder	YSL All Hours Powder
Waterproof mascara	Essence Extreme Waterproof	Lancôme Hypnôse Drama Waterproof
Foundation	e.l.f. Halo Glow Liquid Foundation	Charlotte Tilbury Beautiful Skin
Matte foundation	Maybelline Fit Me Matte	Lancôme Teint Idole 24 HG
Liquid liner	NYX Epic Wear Liquid Liner	Stila Stay All Day Liquid Liner
Hair	Sexy Hair Control Me Thermal Setting Spray, Sexy Hair Styling Paste, Kenra #19 hair protector	
Primer	Smashbox is a favorite brand for silicone-based primer.	

SESSION DAY & AFTER

PACK YOUR CONFIDENCE

The biggest thing you can bring is confidence, and you don't have to find it alone. I'll coach you through every pose, so you never need to know what to do with your hands.

If you'd like a little practice, a few minutes of posing and expressions in front of a mirror can be surprisingly helpful.

AFTER YOUR SESSION

- You'll get a **sneak peek within 24 hours**.
- Your **full gallery arrives within 3 weeks** by email, with a link.
- Galleries open with a slideshow. Make an event of it: cue it up on a big screen, turn the sound up, and gather everyone. The first viewing is always the best.

GALLERY PRIVACY

By default, your gallery appears in the searchable Client Galleries section of my website so family and friends can find it by name. If you'd like extra privacy, choose that option on your booking questionnaire. Your gallery will stay off the public list, be password-protected, and expire one week after it's created.

DOWNLOADING YOUR FILES

Select your images, click the down arrow in the upper right corner of your gallery, and follow the prompts. Images download as a zip file. Double-click to expand it, then save two copies in two places: one on an easy-to-reach drive and one in the cloud (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.).

PRINTING YOUR IMAGES

Everything in my gallery store is printed in professional labs and guaranteed to be beautiful. To print on your own, I recommend **mpix.com**. Deselect any color correction and upload the original files you downloaded. They'll print up to 20x30" at minimum.

USING YOUR IMAGES

Print them as often as you like, and share them on social media or your personal blog. Please don't resell them, use them for business, or enter contests for prize money. Please don't edit, crop, or filter them, and credit "*Photo credit Hocking Hills Portraits*" when you share. Images are protected by federal copyright, so please don't copy them before purchasing your digital files.

QUICK ANSWERS

- **Can I change outfits?** Yes. Seniors can include up to three looks. Wardrobe change time counts toward your session, so keep changes quick and simple. Consider our session location and whether there are practical places to change. Swapping a jacket or accessories along the trail can transform a look without a full change of clothes.
- **I'm running late. What do I do?** Text me at 740-630-7737.
- **I hate being photographed.** You're in good company. Most of my clients say the same thing, and most end up loving their photos. That's what pose coaching is for.

Bonus for party planners: planning a graduation party, reunion, or anniversary? *The Art of Gathering* by Priya Parker is a wonderful resource.



The best portraits happen when you're comfortable and having fun.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Questions about anything in this guide? Text me at **740-630-7737** or email **info@hockinghillsporraits.com**. I'm always happy to chat.