Location Portraits and Groups   •   Buildings and Landscapes   •   Digital Restoration

GUIDELINES FOR FAMILY GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

The following guidelines are intended to create pleasing images, and to ensure that photographs are suitable for display in a wide variety of media – electronic (computer and e-mail), prints and enlargements, and publication in newspapers or magazines.

DRESS:
Please agree on the degree of formality in dress, and all conform to it. It is fine to be in formal, business casual or casual attire but not a mixture of these in one photo. For formal groups ladies usually achieve better results in skirts than in pants.

Try to dress in solid colors and avoid stripes, spots, checks or other small patterns. (These may cause problems later, particularly in press reproduction.) For formal groups, choose fairly neutral tones rather than bright colors.

Remember the old adage: dark colors shed pounds, light colors add pounds.

Some families choose to have coordinated clothes (for example, all wear white tops and navy skirts, shorts or pants.) In these cases, it is essential that everyone conforms, as one differently dressed person ruins the effect.

FACE:
Ladies: If possible, wear slightly heavier make-up than on a typical day – perhaps similar to what would be worn for an evening function.

Gentlemen: Please have a close shave on the morning of the photo shoot; if you have a heavy beard, you may want to shave shortly before the shoot. For most purposes make-up is not required, although facial blemishes may be covered up with pancake or similar products.

EYEGLASSES:
If you normally wear glasses, it is probably appropriate to wear them for the photograph. Sunglasses are to be avoided where possible.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:
If there are particular family groupings or relationships which should be reflected in the composition of the photograph, please make sure the photographer is briefed in advance. Otherwise, people will likely be arranged for artistic composition (e.g. by reference to height, stature or clothing color).

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS