

# THE ENGAGEMENT

E X P E R I E N C E

A Guide for all KCP Couples





## YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it at least 3-6 months in advance to avoid stress. Because my weekends are filled with weddings, I shoot engagements on weekday evenings, normally from 5-7pm depending on the light and the time of the year. In the winter months, 3-5pm is a normal time frame for an e-shoot! As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, you will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. I LOVE it when couples pick a location that is special or sentimental to them in some way! If you can't think of anywhere specific that you would like to shoot, I can help you decide on a location! As long as the light is great, I can make ANY location look awesome! I shoot at farms, campuses, downtown alleys and even laundry mats! I'm serious! Do not shy away from crazy ideas! The more creative, the better! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

# ENGAGEMENT SESSION PREP

It's always a little intimidating to have your picture taken .... even if it's just a photo on an iphone that is taken by a friend. We still want to look nice, make sure nothing is in our teeth and that our hair is behaving! I realize that preparing for your session can be a little overwhelming. Over the next few pages, I'll be providing tips for outfits, handling nerves and recommendations that will make your shoot the best it can possibly be!



## the basics + what to bring

- Don't try to MATCH...try to pick outfits and accessories that coordinate instead. If everyone wore the same exact color at their e-shoot, how boring would those images be?
- Don't be afraid to be BOLD! Accessorize and make your outfits your own! Scarves, bold necklaces and fun shoes are always welcomed!
- MOST PATTERNS are actually ok.... however, graphics are not favorable for portraits. If you're wearing a pattern, make sure it's not overwhelming and distracting.
- Be sure to check out the Pinterest boards for more outfit inspiration if you're having trouble!
- Empty your pockets! Literally. You don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets. (This is for the guys especially!)
- Most often, couples like to have one casual, everyday outfit and then one outfit that is dressier! This will give your shoot two totally different "looks". I recommend beginning with the dressy outfit first!
- Make sure you're comfortable in what you're wearing. And ladies, if the top is super low cut, that will limit the amount of angles I can shoot from.
- BE ON TIME! The sun is only out for so long! The later you arrive, the less time we have to shoot! And nobody wants that!
- Clean the ring! I love to shoot a few rings shots while you change outfits! The cleaner the better!
- Relax! You don't have to be a pro at this! I'm going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! Enjoy this time together, and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!!





# DECIDING ON YOUR STYLE

what style do you prefer?

BOLD or NUETRAL

DRESSY or CASUAL

CLASSIC or TRENDY

These choices represent the three main decisions you will have to make in regards to your outfit choices. There are no right or wrong answers! Maybe you want one outfit to be dressy and the other to be casual. Maybe you want one outfit to be very light and nuetral but you want to wear more color in the next outfit. These categories will hopefully help you determine what you're hoping for in your engagement session. If you're feeling stuck and can't seem to determine what you prefer, that's very normal!

Here are some general “rules of thumb” when it comes to styling during an engagement session. Once you read through these, you may have a better understanding of what you prefer and you can start planning your outfits. These “rules of thumbs” are based off of my experience and aren't concrete rules that can't be broken. However, if you have questions about one of them in regards to what you want to wear, just email me and we can talk about what would be best! :

## *Things to Avoid:*

1. **Colors to avoid :** bright reds, neons, bright oranges (they reflect color onto skin and can be difficult to edit!)
2. **Avoid patterns smaller than a quarter :** Tiny patterns cause something called “Chromatic Abberation” in digital images. Men's checkered shirts are fine if the “checks” are on the larger side.
3. **Alternate Heaviness:** If one of you is wearing very dark jeans, the other may want to wear lighter pants. If one of you is wearing a navy top, the other shouldn't wear a dark/heavy colored top. To a certain degree, alternating the “heaviness” of your outfits can make your images look more balanced.
4. **Avoid one of you being casual while the other is more dressy:** This can look a bit awkward in photos. If one of you is dressed up and the other is casual, it can look a little odd in your images.
5. **Other things to avoid:** Tennis shoes, Graphic tees, Bold logos on shirts, Sunglasses & Baseball Hats

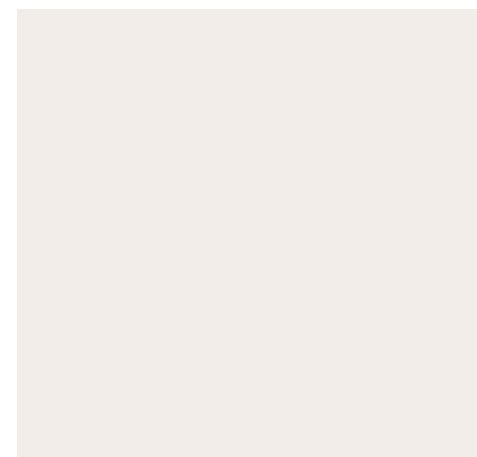
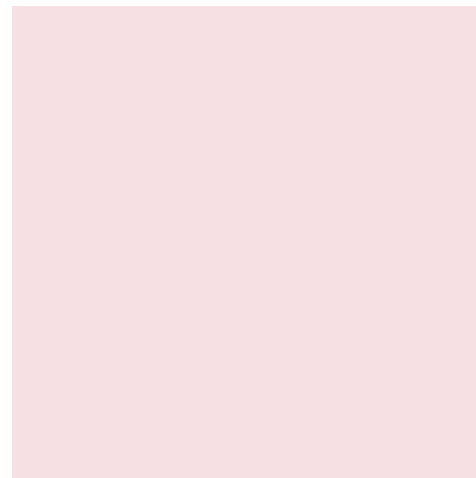
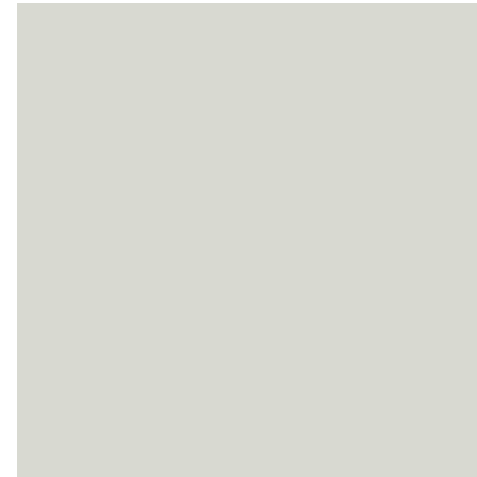
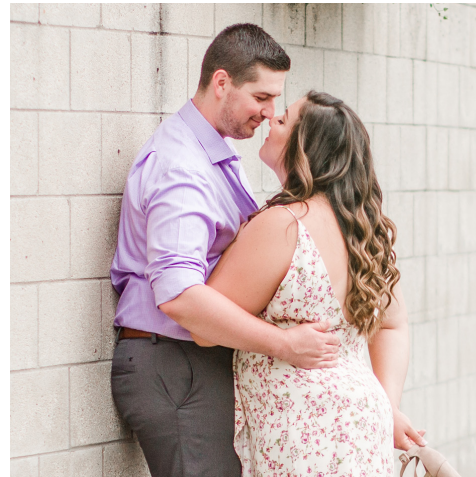
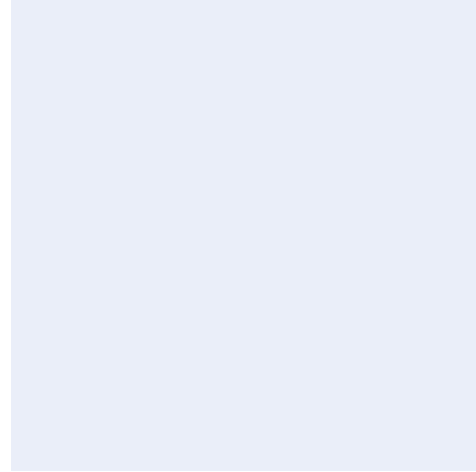
## ROMANTIC STYLE RECIPE

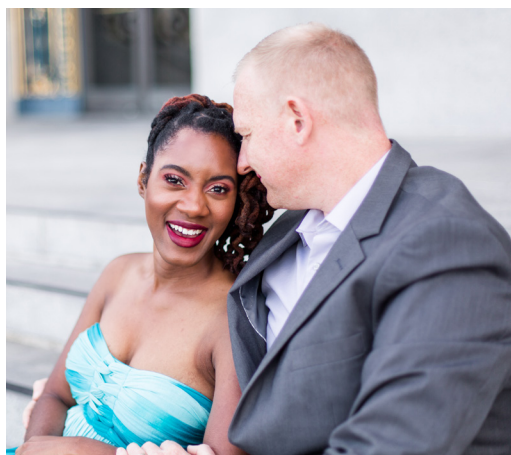
If you're hoping for a more romantic style of shoot that includes "light" and "airy" colors, you can actually make outfit choices that will lend your images to turn out brighter, softer and extra photogenic! Here are some ingredients that go into creating a romantic styled shoot. It's important to note that you do not need to choose all of these ingredients in order to have a light and airy style to your images but the more ingredients you include, the more soft and romantic it will be:

- ***Neutral Colors:*** Blushes, tans, light pinks, faint blues and light minty teals, creams, grays and whites will always result in more of a light and airy look in your images. These colors photograph softer and more romantically!

- ***Long, Flowy Skirts/Dresses:*** Dresses and skirts with feminine ruffles, multiple layers of fabric and the ability to blow and move in the wind will always photograph beautifully! You would be amazed at how impactful moving fabric softens an image.

- ***Khakis vs. Jeans:*** If you really want your images to be as bright as possible, consider having your groom wear lighter pants instead of dark dress pants or dark jeans.





## BRIGHT & BOLD RECIPE

Just like the “romantic” recipe, you don’t have to apply all of these “ingredients” to get a perfectly BRIGHT & BOLD look to your session. These ingredients include:

- *Only one wears a pattern:* If one of you has a bold pattern, it’s very important that the other doesn’t. The more bold the pattern, the more important this rule is!

- *Bold Backgrounds:* A lot of time, if my families are going for a bold and bright look, I will notice solid colored backgrounds to use for part of their session! It’s a double win if the background coordinates with their outfits!

- *Only one bold color:* If you really want a bold and bright look but you want to do it well and tastefully, I would suggest that only one of you have a bright and bold colored outfit and the others stay in a solid neutral to avoid over-doing it!

- *Large Patterns are Preferred:* If you really want to wear a pattern, my only request is that your pattern is on the larger side. Patterns that are smaller than a quarter can be difficult to photograph. This isn’t true of all patterns but it’s a good general rule to go by!



## ENGAGEMENT SESSION

### Approximate Start Times

#### WINTER

Dec -Mar 3:30-5:30pm

During December through Mid-March you can plan on your engagement session taking place around 3:30-5:30pm. However, the time changes in Mid-March and so that will make the start time one hour later.

#### SUMMER

May-Aug 5:00-7:00pm

Summer engagements, just like all engagements, take place two hours before sunset. This will hopefully mean that the shoot will be during the cooler part of the day.

#### SPRING

Apr-May - 4:30-6:30

The sunset time drastically changes throughout the course of these two months and so our shooting times change as well. You can plan on approximately 5:30-7:30 in April and 6:00-8:00 in May.

#### FALL

Sept-Nov - Varies

The sunset time changes drastically during these three months. In Sept, you can plan on 4:30-6:30 until the third week and then you can plan on 4:00-6:00 until Mid- Nov. After that, you can plan 3:00-5:00pm.

## LOGISTICS:

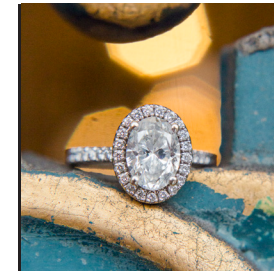
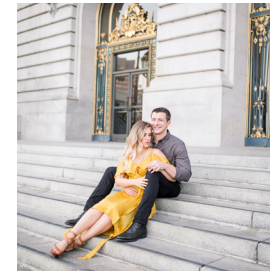
- I typically photograph engagement sessions on weekday evenings because my weekends are dedicated to photographing weddings!

- I love shooting at gorgeous locations. I recommend two locations max for engagements. A general rule of thumb is the more locations and outfits, the less images, but the more variety you'll have!

- I can do sunrise sessions if necessary! I require sunrise shoots for those who want to take portraits in a very crowded location.

- I love to travel to my shoots! However, if I have never been to your desired location, we may need some advice on where to park!

## PREPARING YOUR GROOM



## PREPARING YOUR GROOM

If you're a bride that is a little anxious about how your groom is going to react to this whole "picture" thing, you're not alone. I receive so many emails from brides who are worried that their groom won't be into it and I have great news for you....you both are more photogenic than you think! I am constantly surprising couples by discovering their hidden modeling skills and our most common response from my KCP Grooms is "That wasn't as bad as I thought! It was actually fun". Boom! Mission accomplished! When the groom says that taking pictures was FUN, I have done my job well! Your engagement session is supposed to be fun and relaxed, not forced or awkward. As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help your groom know what to expect. First of all, I highly recommend sitting down with your guy and showing him 2-3 of your favorite engagement sessions that I have photographed. Spend some time together scrolling through a few blog posts, this will allow him to gauge what his expectations should be. I also recommend that you allow for plenty of time to get to your shoot! There is nothing worse than when a couple shows up late, and they have been arguing in the car! That is definitely going to put your groom in a bad mood! Last but not least, remember to have patience with him, and don't assume that he's not going to have a good time... I think you'll be surprised how much you will both enjoy your session!

# NON-PROFESSIONAL PRINTS

How bad could it really be?



This is the original image that I edited and delivered to my couple. To the right, you'll see the most common print issues that clients experience when they choose to not print through their online gallery that we provide for them. We make sure to offer as many price sizes as possible at the most affordable price so that our clients can have access to professional quality prints for the images that they invested too much in. Investing in high-end photography but ordering prints at Target is similar to wearing an evening gown to a date night at Taco Bell. It just doesn't make sense.

SAMPLE PRINTING ISSUES:  
High contrast, over-saturation and de-saturation

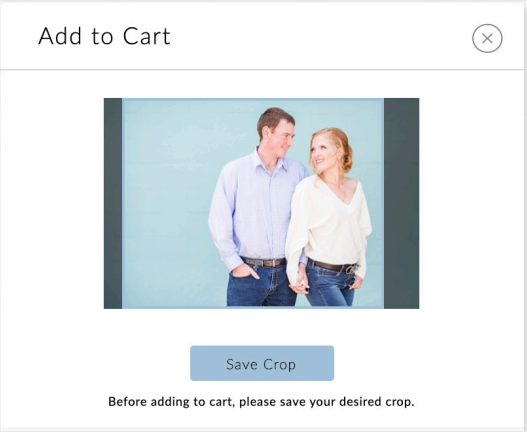


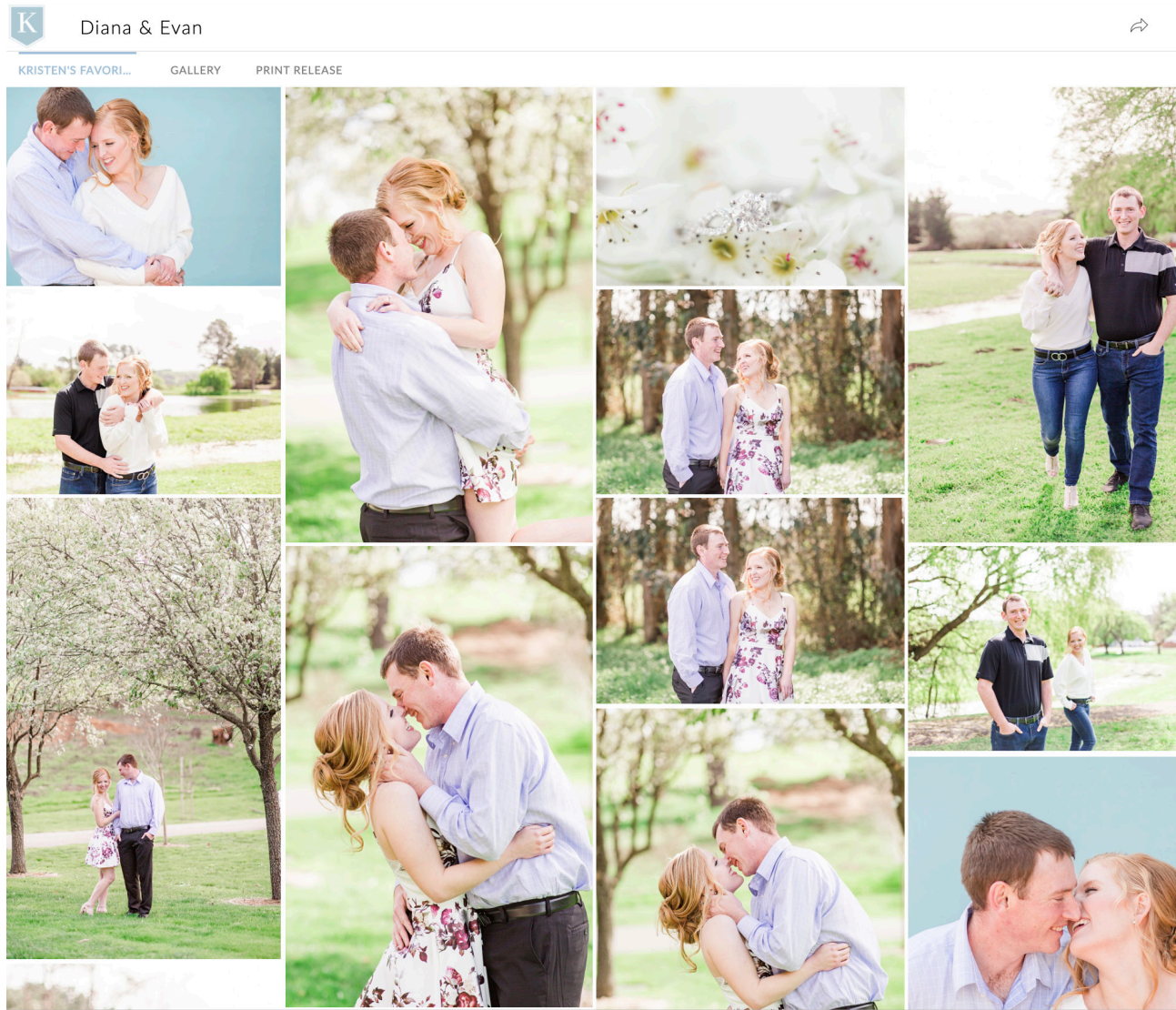
Once your images have been delivered via your online gallery, you can begin ordering professional prints. Your prints will be printed in a professional lab and then shipped directly to you.

USE THE CODE : "KCP2020" for 10% off an order of \$60 or more!

## Special Care for 8x10's and 5x7's

For some reason, our culture has normalized print sizes that are not similar size ratios to the ratios that a camera captures. This means, when you are ordering an 8x10 or 5x7 print, you will need to pay attention to the "Crop" option and adjust the crop of your print before ordering! See example to the right!





## YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago you had to order prints of the images that you wanted to have forever. That isn't how I work around here! I want you to have ALL of your memories in your possession forever and ever! I also want you to share your images freely and without any hesitation. This is why I deliver your images via an online gallery! This means that you don't have to wait on a package in the mail, and you'll have access to them wherever you are! I've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do on the next page! Enjoy!

### DOWNLOADING PHOTOS:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery, and they will be high resolution! This process is very simple! All you have to do is click the "downwards arrow icon" and you will be prompted to enter your email. Once you enter your email, you will be asked if you want to download just that one photo or if you would like to download all photos! Your photos will download directly to your "Downloads" folder. If you opt to download the entire gallery, you will be notified via email when your entire download is ready. It takes a few minutes to prepare for hundreds of images to be downloaded!

### ACCESSING YOUR PHOTOS ON YOUR PHONE:

The online gallery system that I use actually has a mobile APP that is free to download! When your FULL Gallery is delivered, there will be a link for you to download the gallery app. In this free app, you'll be able to access your gallery and you can download images to your phone for clear, crisp instagrams!

### ORDERING PRINTS:

You can actually order professional and affordable prints from within your online gallery and have them shipped directly to your house! Print sizes are all under \$10 and are printed in a professional lab to ensure color and contrast accuracy! You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would warn you to avoid Walmart, Target and Walgreens. I cannot promise that your colors will print true-to-life if you choose to print at those stores. If you don't print through your gallery, I recommend using Mpix.com for larger prints and convases or if you don't need smaller prints right away! If you find yourself needing prints in a pinch, I recommend Costco and DESLECTING the autocorrect or color correct button. This will help keep accurate skintones, but is not a guarantee!

### GALLERY EXPIRATION:

I have great news! Your galleries will not expire for 10 years! Isn't that amazing?! You will have kids running around everywhere before your gallery expires! However, even though you will have access to your images for a long time, I would still recommend downloading them and saving them in multiple places for safe keeping!

### SHARING, WATERMARKING & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images, and I want you to love them so much that you can't help but share them! I don't believe that it is necessary to watermark my images. All I ask for is some type of credit whenever you use an image on social media! I only have ONE rule when it comes to what you can and cannot do with my work. I always encourage my clients not to re-edit their images. Let me do that hard work! However, if you have an image or two that you want to print at a very large size and you find an imperfection, I will gladly perfect it!



## THANK YOU!

Last, but certainly not least, THANK YOU for trusting me with your engagement portraits. I am so honored to be the ones capturing your memories, and I cannot WAIT to celebrate alongside of you at your engagement session! Enjoy this season of engagement but also remember that your MARRIAGE is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go in a matter of hours, but your marriage needs to stand the test of time. Continue to make time for one another, even with all that needs to get done. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact me with ANY questions you may have along the way!! I hope this guide has been helpful as you continue to plan and prepare for your engagement session!

Love, Kristen