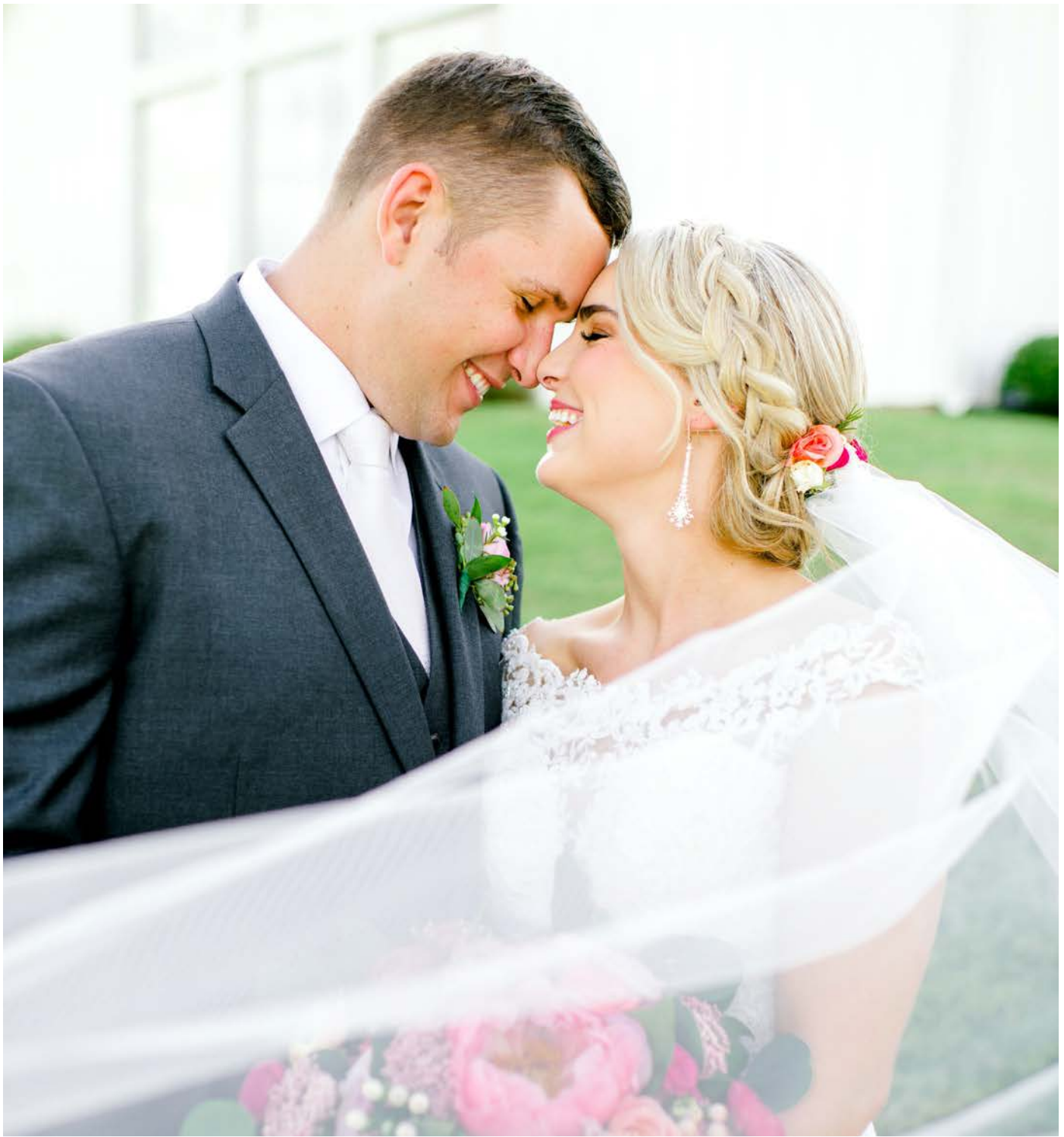




KATI HEWITT  
PHOTOGRAPHY

hello, beautiful bride!

# WELCOME

Hello, bride-to-be! I know this is such an exciting time for you and your fiancé, and we are so honored to be walking alongside you during your wedding journey and capturing the sweetest memories all along the way! Wedding planning can be an equal mix of exciting and overwhelming, so one of my goals as your wedding photographer is to give you tips and tricks that can make the planning process a little more manageable and enjoyable! Photography is more than just images, it's a real part of your day. Not only do you deserve beautiful images, you also deserve an amazing photographic experience. I hope this KHP Bride Guide will be a valuable resource for you as you plan your big day! Let the fun begin!



# meet the team



## KATI & ALEX

Hello! I'm Kati- a wedding photographer born and raised in Texas! I established Kati Hewitt Photography in 2012, and since then, I've photographed almost 150 weddings! I married my high school sweetheart, Alex, in 2016, and we've been photographing weddings together as a husband and wife team ever since. Wedding photography has a hold on our hearts because we believe in true love, the power of authentic story-telling, and the importance of family heritage. There's nothing we love more than being on the same team! Together, we capture your wedding day intentionally and artfully through two lenses from beginning to end.

In our free time, you can find us working on DIY home improvement projects, planning our next road trip, baking bread from scratch, and visiting cozy coffee shops around Houston. Our favorite date night is going to the theatre to see a Broadway musical and then eating late night breakfast for dinner after the show. We're so thrilled to be a part of your wedding journey and can't wait to get to know you better throughout our time together!



## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is that no matter what happens on your wedding day (rain or shine!), at the end of the day, you'll be married to your best friend and love of your life. The planning and preparation leading up to the wedding day is important, but the act of becoming husband and wife will always take center stage. Our style is best represented with natural-light portraits filled with sunshine, but we also value the candidness of a rockin' reception! All of these moments go hand in hand to tell the story of your day.

We believe that the gift of marriage is precious, and though your wedding day goes by in the blink of an eye, the one thing that can bring back those memories is photographs. With that being said, our goal is to capture joyful, authentic images that represent your wedding day. We want you to focus on being fully present on your wedding day so that we can focus on taking you back to those moments that really matter. We hope this KHP Bride Guide will help you visualize what your wedding day experience will be like with Kati Hewitt Photography!

## OUR SIGNATURE PROCESS

### *schedule consultation*

STEP 1: We believe that a great photography experience starts with a great connection! After you fill out the contact form on our website, Kati will be in touch to schedule a coffee consultation or phone call with her.



### *make it official!*

STEP 2: Once we decide we are a perfect match, you'll dot the i's and cross the t's on your online booking proposal, and then your wedding date is officially reserved!

### *engagement portraits*

STEP 3: The next step is scheduling your engagement photos with Kati! We will send you our list of preferred photo locations and our KHP Style Guide to help you prepare! (And then you get to send out adorable Save the Dates to all of your friends and family!)



### *bridal portraits*

STEP 4: After your engagement session, we'll schedule your bridal session for 1-2 months before your wedding date. In the meantime, we will work with you to create the perfect photo timeline for your wedding day!

### *photo timeline creation*

STEP 5: Two months before your wedding, we will send you a questionnaire so you can fill us in on all of the fun details of your wedding day. We'll finalize your timeline, create your family photo list, etc.

### *become husband & wife!*

STEP 6: YOUR WEDDING DAY IS FINALLY HERE! Alex and I both get to work with you on one of the most important days of your lives, and we don't take that lightly! We'll have fun together and create beautiful art while we are at it!



### *photo delivery*

STEP 7: You'll receive your images within 5-8 weeks in an online gallery, and then they are yours to treasure forever!



### *album design*

STEP 8: Lastly, you'll have the chance to hand pick your favorite photos for your wedding album, and we will create a custom album design showcasing your wedding day from beginning to end. One of our favorite parts of our job is getting to create your first family heirloom for you!

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*engagement sessions*





# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT *engagement sessions*

Now that you have picked a date, a photographer, and a venue, you can celebrate! Those are some of the toughest decisions in wedding planning, and you can cross them off your list! Now onto the fun stuff....like planning your engagement session!

I include engagement sessions in my wedding experience because I truly believe that they are a vital part of the entire process. During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot, and see how I handle posing and lighting. On your wedding day, I'll already know how you two interact and how to photograph you in a genuine way. You will feel like a pro on your big day because of the practice you had being in front of the camera during your engagement session. While your engagement session only includes one photographer (me!), Alex is always excited to meet everyone on the wedding day! If you'd like, we can also schedule a coffee date prior to the wedding so everyone can get to know each other and walk through the wedding day timeline.

Most importantly, I want your engagement session to be a FUN experience that you will always remember! My goal is to make you feel comfortable and confident while you are in front of my camera. I want to capture your love for each other, and we will have fun while we're at it! When you

look back at your engagement photos, you should see the best version of yourselves laughing, smiling, and cuddling with each other!

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it 7-8 months before your wedding date to make sure you have enough time to send out Save the Dates. Because my weekends are filled with weddings, I shoot engagements on weekday evenings (Monday-Thursday), normally 1.5 hours before sunset.

I love shooting in wide open spaces with greenery, an abundance of trees, and tall grass. These types of locations complement my style of shooting and allow for a great glow in your images around sunset! Other great locations include flower gardens or specialty spots with grand architecture or skylines. No worries- I don't expect you to scout out spots on your own! I'll send you a list of my favorite go-to locations to choose from once we start planning via email. (Keep reading to learn about a few of my favorite spots in the meantime!)

A week prior to your session, I will check the forecast and let you know if we need to reschedule due to inclement weather. Please let me know the cancellation policies of any potential hair and makeup appointments you may have.

# HOW TO PREP FOR *engagements*

Getting engaged is a whirlwind. The first few weeks are filled with congratulatory phone calls, jaws that drop at the sight of your ring, excitement that your Pinterest board can finally come to life, and A LOT of planning. If you're not familiar with the wedding industry, you may find yourself asking, "Now what?" You are excited to be engaged to the love of your life, but you have no idea how to start the wedding planning process. My suggestion? Schedule engagement photos!

## WHAT TO WEAR

- ***Textures and layers:*** This adds more dimension to your images! Lace dresses and textured sweaters look gorgeous in photos.
- ***Subtle pops of color:*** Think a scarf, pair of heels, or fun necklace!
- ***Plaid or patterns:*** Don't be afraid of patterns! If one person is wearing a flannel or a plaid scarf, it adds interest to the photos without being overly distracting. (I don't suggest both wearing patterns, though!)
- ***Accessories:*** Your engagement ring, class rings, jewelry, a quilt to sit on or blanket to wrap up in, a tulle skirt, or a floppy hat.
- ***Colors that are best suited for your skin tone:*** I have never been able to get a tan in my life, so I know I would be better suited in something navy or green as opposed to pale yellow!
- ***Timeless outfits:*** Choose styles that will still be "in" after the year's trends are over! Consider wearing jeans over shorts for a more classic look.



*Check out my KHP Engagement Style Guide on your personal client site for more “what to wear” inspiration!*



## OUTFIT TIPS

- I recommend bringing 2 to 3 outfits with at least 1 formal and 1 date night casual. This will give us variety in your images and allow us to have more freedom with poses. (Jeans are a great option for one outfit so that you can comfortably sit down or do a piggyback ride!) You're welcome to do extra quick changes if you just want to switch tops for more variety, like Katelyn did above!
- I usually suggest arriving in your casual outfit first. We will save your dressiest outfit for sunset!
- Focus on wearing complementary outfits rather than matching outfits. Ladies- one trick is to base your outfit off of the colors in your groom's favorite shirt! For example, if his shirt is gray and white with a subtle blue stripe, you can incorporate that blue into your outfit by wearing a solid blue dress.



- Make sure you're comfortable in what you're wearing. If you decide to buy a new outfit, try to wear it before the session to see if there is anything you should be aware of. (Ex: It comes untucked easily or you need fashion tape to keep the straps in place.)
- If you love the "light and airy" look, consider wearing softer colors instead of black or bold colors. When in doubt, neutral colors and pastels photograph well and give your images a softer look. On the other hand, navy, maroon, and white really make your images "pop." I suggest staying away from darker shades of green if we are shooting in a field. Try to avoid neon colors and bright red because those colors tend to leave a "color cast" on your fiancé's face that unfortunately cannot be edited out.

## OUTFIT INSPIRATION

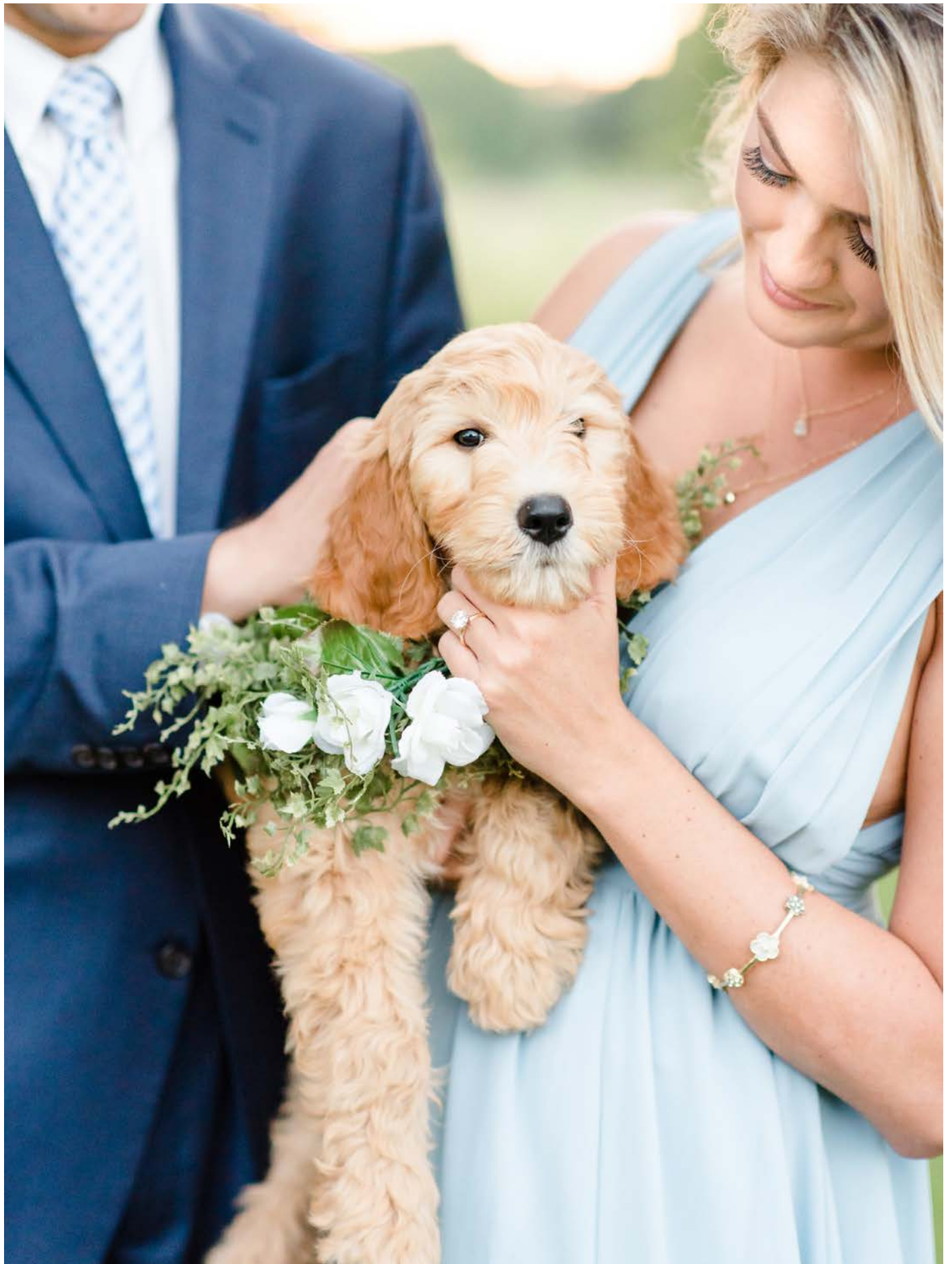
*spring-summer*



fall-  
winter



*Check out my KHP Engagement Style Guide on your personal client site for more “what to wear” inspiration!*



## PREPARING YOUR FIANCE

If you're a bride that is a little anxious about how your fiance is going to react to this whole "picture" thing, you're not alone. No worries- this is going to be an enjoyable experience for BOTH of you, and no modeling experience is required! Your engagement session is supposed to be fun and relaxed and not forced or awkward. As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help your fiance know what to expect. First of all, I highly recommend sitting down with your fiance and showing him 2-3 of your favorite engagement sessions that I have photographed. Spend some time together scrolling through a few blog posts so he can become familiar with my work and warm up to the idea of being in front of the camera.

On the day of your session, I recommend giving yourselves plenty of time to get dressed and travel to your session location. If you'll be traveling during rush hour, remember to leave earlier than needed and add plenty of buffer time for traffic. With extra time built in, you can avoid rushing and unnecessary stress. Another tip is to make sure you double check that you both have the shirts, pants, belts, and shoes that you need. That way, all you have to worry about when you arrive is ha Last but not least, remember to have patience with your fiance, 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, and you'll have the pictures to prove it!



## BRINGING YOUR DOG

You're more than welcome to bring your pup to your engagement session! If you decide you want some cute photos with your dog, I have a few recommendations. First, it's very important to bring a third person to your shoot to be on "dog duty." I can capture great photos of y'all with your pup within the first 15 minutes of our time together, and it works out great when there is a designated dog handler to entertain your pup afterwards.

Trust me- it's hard to focus on photos of just the two of you if your pup is begging for attention in the background. (Even though they are still so cute while they are doing this!) I recommend bringing a friend or sibling along who can walk your dog around and give you two some privacy while we finish shooting! Your dog can always jump into a few images every time you change outfits, too!

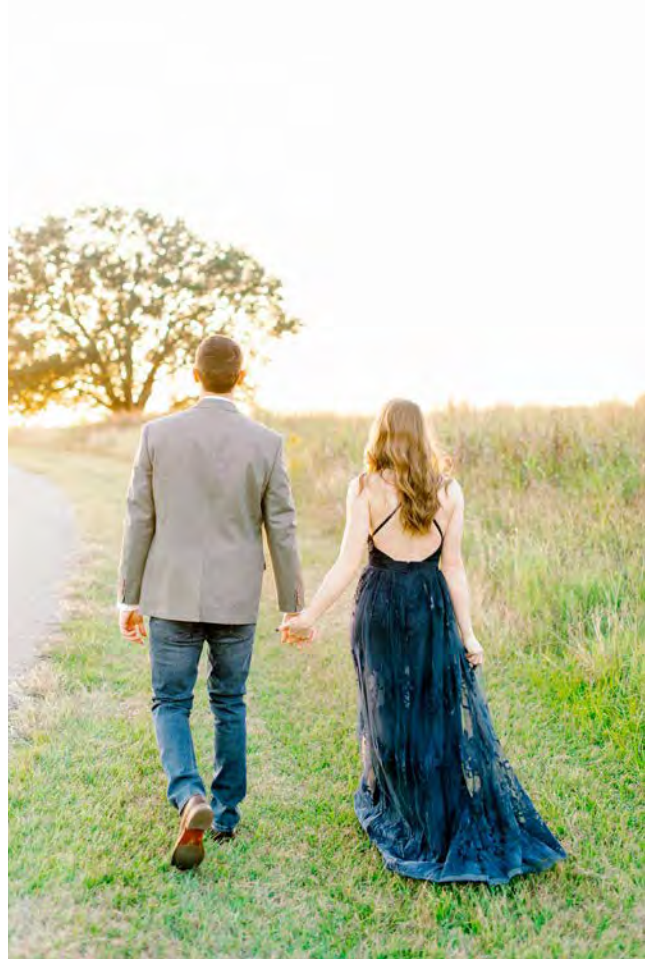
## CHOOSING A *location*

When we are brainstorming location ideas, make sure to think about whether or not there's a location that is special to you and your fiancé. You can either base your decision off of which locations are MY favorite, or you can let me know if there's a location that is already YOUR favorite, like a private family ranch! The sky's the limit! I've grouped my favorite locations into 4 main categories. When deciding on a location, think about whether you are most drawn to the idea of The Great Outdoors, Flower Gardens, Architecture, or City Vibes.





## 1) THE GREAT OUTDOORS



I have a long list of local parks that I think you will love! These parks are located in different parts of town ranging from Katy to Downtown Houston to Sugar Land. Two of my favorites are Bear Creek Park and Brazos Bend State Park (pictured above). The state park requires a small \$7/person donation upon entry. I recommend choosing one of my preferred parks for your engagement photos if you love being able to see some “glow” from the sun in your images! I will send you a more detailed list of parks once we start planning your session.

## 2) FLOWER GARDENS



Another wonderful outdoor option is a flower garden! There are two flower gardens that I love to take photos at. One is Mercer Botanic Gardens (not pictured) which is free of charge and located near Spring, TX. I love going there because no permit is required, and it's usually not too crowded. If you'd like to expand your location options, there are other beautiful Houston locations that require paid permits. Pictured above is McGovern Centennial Gardens. The reservation fee for McGovern is \$140. I'm happy to make a reservation for any location you have your eye on, and any permit fees can be added to your final wedding balance.

### 3) ARCHITECTURE



While I love utilizing natural spaces like flower gardens or the great outdoors for photos, I also enjoy shooting in specialty locations that are known for their grand design and architecture! One of my favorite spots for both engagement sessions and bridal sessions is Rice University. It's one of the most iconic photo spots in Houston no matter where you went to school! I can reserve a one-hour time slot here for \$50.

## 4) CITY VIBES



I also know of some great spots where we can incorporate the Houston skyline if you're wanting to showcase some Houston city vibes in your images! The park shown here is near Hermann Park, and it's a great option if you want a mix of city and nature shots. I worked hard to find this hidden gem!

## ENGAGEMENT SESSION

# checklist

### WHAT TO BRING

- 2 to 3 outfits, with at least 1 dressy and 1 date night casual
- The proper undergarments for each outfit
- YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING
- Hairbrush, bobby pins, and any other hair accessories
- Lipstick and extra makeup for touch-ups
- Oil wipes for your face
- Optional: a quilt or blanket to sit down on

### ON THE DAY OF

- Eat before your shoot so nobody is hangry- haha!
- Plan to arrive on time so we can get the most of the sunlight, and text me once you have parked. (713-515-7672)
- Wear your most casual outfit first. Your dressiest outfit will be saved for later in the evening.
- Make sure your clothes are freshly ironed. You may want to hang your clothes in the backseat so they don't get wrinkled. If you are worried the seat belt will wrinkle your shirt on the way there, you can quickly change once you arrive!
- Plan to change outfits in the car in case there are no nearby rest rooms. (An AC break is always nice!)
- Remember, you don't have to be a pro at this! During your session, I will guide you through different posing suggestions and help you interact in front of the camera.





*Kathleen A. Martin*

## USING YOUR IMAGES

# prints + products

Here are a few ideas of what you can do with your engagement photos leading up to your wedding day and beyond!

- Create and order Save the Dates.
- Add photos to your wedding website.
- Make a Facebook album + change your profile photo.
- Utilize your online photo gallery to order your favorite images for your home or office.
- Place an order for an engagement photo album with us.

We can custom design it as the guest sign-in book for you to use at your wedding. It will be similar to your wedding album so you can beautifully display them together in your home!

- Start a wedding countdown on Instagram.
- Order wall art.
- Frame large prints for your wedding welcome table.
- Display the images in a unique way for one of your wedding showers.
- Use the images on a rehearsal dinner slideshow.
- Surprise your fiancé with a meaningful photo gift







# bridal session prep

## YOUR TIME TO SHINE

Most brides only get to wear their dress once, but if you take bridal portraits, you get to wear yours TWICE! This is such a fun time to do a run-through of your complete bridal look with your dress, jewelry, accessories, and hair & make-up exactly how it will look on your wedding day. We will plan your bridal session based on when your dress will be finished after alterations. The usual time frame for bridal portraits is 2 months before your wedding day. Sessions take place 1.5 hours before sunset to ensure we have the best

lighting! We stay at one location to minimize the amount of moving you have to do in your dress. On the day of your session, you are encouraged to bring along a trusted family member or friend to help you get your dress on, fluff your dress during photos, and make sure your hair stays picture perfect. This is also a great time to make sure that someone knows how to bustle your dress and put in your veil; the more people who know how to do those things on the day of the wedding, the better!



# THE IMPORTANCE OF *bridal portraits*



Your wedding dress is one of the most important articles of clothing that you will ever buy. It's hard to think of another piece of clothing that could have more sentimental value than the dress you wear when you marry your husband. Scheduling bridal portraits is the perfect opportunity to have a "test run" of your complete wedding day look. Take the uncertainty out of your wedding day by scheduling a professional hair and makeup trial with the same vendors who you have booked for your wedding day. After all, this is the first and only time you get to see your complete look come together before the wedding day- your dress, veil, accessories, shoes, hair, and makeup. In the event of inclement weather, we can move your session to an outdoor location that has covered areas and paved walkways, or we can reschedule to a different day. Be sure to talk to your hair and makeup artist to determine what their cancella-

tion policy is. Your bridal session is a great time to learn how to move in your dress (taking slow steps, picking up your veil, etc). The majority of brides I photograph choose to buy a fresh flower bouquet for their bridal session. It looks gorgeous in photos, and it lets you practice holding the bouquet properly. This may sound funny, but it takes some time to learn how to hold a bouquet; they can be bulkier and heavier than you think! It's natural to want to hold your bouquet up by your chest, but the proper placement is down by your belly button. Bringing a bouquet will also help you feel more confident in your photos because you will have a natural place to rest your hands. With that being said, you'll want to make sure your florist is available on the day of your bridal session as well. The next page will discuss the best locations for your session.



# CHOOSING YOUR *bridal session location*



No matter where we take your bridal portraits, we want to aim for gorgeous, natural light! The best way to achieve this is to take portraits at your wedding venue or another outdoor area. Shooting at your venue will give you a place to change, go to the rest room, etc. It is also a great way for me to scope out your venue before the big day. A lot of brides also like the consistency of taking their bridal portraits in the same place as their wedding. When you frame your bridal portrait at the wedding or put a canvas on an easel, guests will recognize that you took the photos at the same venue! We want your bridal portraits to match the style of your wedding day portraits, so photos will be taken primarily outdoors with natural light. As far as timing goes, most venues host portrait sessions Monday-Thursday since their weekends are reserved for rehearsals and weddings.

## OPTION 1: YOUR VENUE

## OPTION 2: PARK/GARDEN



Taking photos at a public park or garden makes it a little easier to plan your session since we do not have to coordinate dates with your venue. We have more flexibility in what time we shoot as well. (Reminder: the best time for bridal portraits is 1.5 hours before sunset.) However, if we choose to shoot at a park, we will need you to arrive in your dress or be able to slip it on outside in the parking lot. If you're worried about your dress getting dirty, rest assured that I have never had any problems with this. I usually have you pick up your dress as we walk, and then we lay it out for the photos. Once the dress is fluffed and picture-perfect, I won't have you move again until we are done in that spot. I also bring a clear plastic tarp to lay under your dress when you are standing in the grass. This is a great tactic if you are worried about cleanliness! If it's rained recently, we will avoid grassy areas altogether.





Tip: You're all dolled up for your bridal session, so it might be fun to plan a little date night after your session! You can let down your hair a bit or change your makeup ever so slightly if you want to keep your final bridal look a surprise.

## OPTION 3: SPECIALTY LOCATIONS



There are a lot of great specialty locations around Houston for your bridal portraits! One of my favorite spots is Rice University which I also mentioned in the engagement session section. There is a \$50 permit fee, but it's a stunning spot for classic and elegant bridal portraits. Another thing I like about Rice University is that it's mostly covered and paved walkways. In the event of inclement weather, I like to recommend this spot as a rainy day backup plan. While sunny days are always preferred for lighting purposes, the next best option is to move forward with a covered location!



Another stunning location is the River Oaks Garden Club Forum. A reservation is \$200, but if you LOVE roses and garden vibes, this spot will be your dream come true!

We usually start bridal sessions 1.5 hours before sunset, but some specialty locations have strict hours we must follow. The hours of operation usually vary depending on the season, so we will need to confirm their hours before proceeding.



If you have a specialty location in mind for your shoot, let us know! We love shooting in new locations, and we are happy to brainstorm ideas with you. No matter where we take your photos, we want you to feel like a princess!



# BRIDAL SESSION

## checklist

### WHAT TO BRING

- Dress, petticoat, and veil
- Wedding shoes
- The proper undergarments for your dress
- A fresh flower bridal bouquet
- Jewelry and accessories
- Makeup and bobby-pins for touch-ups
- Extra lipstick
- Oil wipes for your face
- A friend or family member to assist you

### ON THE DAY OF

- Have plans to pick up your portrait bouquet and schedule enough time to drive to and from your hair & makeup appointments.
- Have your nails painted!
- Arrive on time so we can get the most of the sunlight.
- Plan to be fully dressed by the time I arrive.
- Make sure you know how to put your veil in! Your hair dresser might have specific instructions for you.
- Be prepared to have fun and be yourself! I'll bring a tarp to put under your dress, so you don't have to worry about getting your dress dirty!



## USING YOUR IMAGES

# *prints + products*

Here are a few ideas of what you can do with your bridal portraits leading up to your wedding day and beyond!

- Order a large canvas or matboard print to put on display at your wedding. Then, hang it in your home or gift it to mom after the wedding day!
- Frame smaller prints for your welcome table or gift table at your wedding.
- Order a special 4x4 inch album with your bridal photos. This is a cute thank you gift for your parents or a fun surprise for your groom!
- Save a bridal portrait on your phone to help your hair and makeup artists recreate your exact look on your wedding day.
- Create a Facebook album after the wedding.
- Include a spread with your bridal portraits in your wedding album!

*Timeline and design*



## IT'S ABOUT TIME!

# *Timing Tips*



## HAIR & MAKEUP

We typically arrive 3 hours before the start of the ceremony, so I encourage brides to have their hair and makeup finished before I arrive. If all of the bridesmaids and bride have their hair & makeup finished before our arrival time, we can jump right into taking cute pre-ceremony photos of all of the girls with their matching robes, etc. The NUMBER ONE thing that makes the timeline run late is hair and makeup taking longer than expected, so please schedule in some buffer time with your hair and makeup artists! Hair and makeup should be finished 3 hours before the start of the ceremony to avoid any timeline delays and unwanted stress!

When you're planning a wedding day timeline, the best advice I can give is to ADD CUSHION TIME! Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes, and then all of a sudden, the whole morning is off schedule. I have seen "getting the bride in her dress" take almost 40 minutes because of a button malfunction. It's a smart idea to add in an extra 10 minutes here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with! That way, if one part of the day runs behind by 20 minutes, I can help you compensate that time in other areas. I realize that every single wedding day is different, so not all of these tips will apply to every wedding day schedule. Something else to consider is that not EVERYTHING will go as planned, and I promise you, that is completely normal! Keep reading to hear my tips and tricks for timing your wedding perfectly.



## TRAVEL TIME

Be sure to think about the travel time and TRAFFIC to and from your getting ready location and your venue! (We've traveled to venues on campus during football games which comes with a unique set of challenges.) If your ceremony and reception venues are in different locations, a second photographer is crucial! The second photographer can drive over to the reception venue before the guests arrive in order to get detail shots of the room while it is still untouched. If your venues are more than 20 minutes away, you may want to consider adding extra photography coverage to make up for the drive time.



# TIS THE SEASON

## SPRING

Spring weddings are wonderful because they are the perfect temperature! However, I recommend having plenty of Claritin or Zyrtec on hand just in case allergies start to flare up during portrait time. After all, spring is known as allergy season! Make sure to ask your venue if there are any special parts of the property that will have blooming flowers in the spring. Flowers look gorgeous in photos! Though they are fashionable in the spring, you may want to avoid having your groom wear a light gray suit if he is prone to sweating.



## SUMMER

I love that there is so much daylight during the summer months! In some months, the light will last until 8:30 PM. If you're having a summer wedding, you can plan to slip out of the reception for a few minutes to take additional sunset portraits! You will NOT regret this! This is the absolute best light of the day, and you're going to want to have portraits during this time period. Usually these portraits happen during dinner or open dancing so that no one even notices that you're gone for a few minutes!



## FALL

Fall in Texas can be unpredictable, but we all know the “fall vibes” make everything better! Your ceremony start time will vary depending on your wedding date and whether it is before or after Daylight Savings. We’ll be sure to discuss this when we approve your final timeline! Even though it’s fall, don’t shy away from bright or pastel wedding colors. It’s always nice to have a pop of color in your photos!

## WINTER

Winter weddings are gorgeous! However, they do take some additional planning simply because of the early sunset times (usually around 5:30 PM). This means that all of your portraits have to be finished before then! It’s always a great idea to do a First Look at winter weddings so that you and your groom can take photos together before it is dark outside. Make sure not to send out your invitations until we discuss how the ceremony timing will affect your portraits!

*Overall, I recommend scheduling your ceremony for 1.5 or 2 hours before sunset! This is the most CRUCIAL decision that will affect all of your wedding photos. We need one hour of sunlight after the conclusion of your ceremony to take family portraits, bridal party portraits (if you don’t do a First Look), and bride + groom portraits. The sample timeline on the next page talks about the timing of photos in more detail. I highly recommend you adapt the sample timeline to your wedding start time so that we have the proper amount of time to capture each part of the day. I always arrive a minimum of 3 hours before the start of your ceremony so that there is a natural flow to putting on your dress, taking portraits, etc.*



3:00 PM



## Bridal Details

Photographing your bridal details is important because it's a special part of your wedding day story. One day, you will be able to look back at that perfect pair of heels, your hand-picked accessories, and your gorgeous invitation! I love having some time to shoot the dress, shoes, jewelry, invitations, etc. These shots allow me to get warmed up for the rest of the day. I normally like to allow at least 30 minutes for this part of the day.

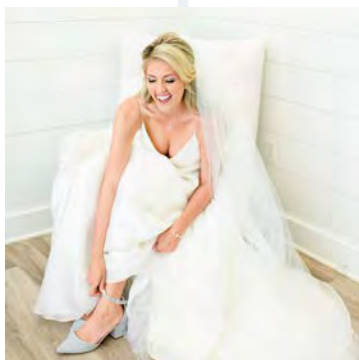
3:30 PM



## Robe Photos + Groom Getting Ready

Though all of the girls will already have their hair and makeup completed by the time I arrive, we will use this time to take photos of everyone in their matching robes, etc. We usually take these photos in the bridal suite if there is plenty of natural light or outside on a porch. While I'm photographing the girls in their robes, the second photographer is making sure the guys are starting to get dressed! We ask that the guys have their dress shirts and pants on before photographers arrive. We will photograph the finishing touches like bow ties, cuff links, and jackets!

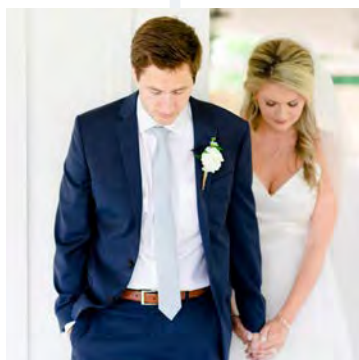
4:00 PM



## Bride Getting Ready + Special Reveals

This is a big moment! I usually ask the mother of the bride and all of the bridesmaids to be dressed by the time the bride is ready to get into her dress. This ensures that everyone will look nice in those images. After the bride is in her gown, she can put on her jewelry and shoes. After the bride is dressed, it's the perfect time for a "bridesmaids reveal" which is when your girls see you all dolled up for the first time! This is also a great time for a First Look with Dad or any other special family members.

4:20 PM



## First Look or Letter Exchange

If you choose to do a first look, I will make sure the location is private and as secluded as possible. If you have decided not to do a first look, we can always do what I call a "blind first look" where you spend a moment together without seeing each other. This is usually done by separating the bride and groom on either side of a door or corner. Or, you can opt to independently open letters or gifts from your partner. We will take bride and groom portraits immediately following your first look.

# SAMPLE TIMELINE

4:30 PM



## Bridesmaids Photos + Bridals

We will spend 30 minutes taking bridesmaids + bride photos. At this time, we can also take a few photos of the bride with her immediate family if they are on site. Girls will need their bouquets for these photos, so please make sure the florist is able to drop them off at the start of the day. We will take bridesmaids group shots, house party group shots (if on site), individuals with each bridesmaid, and solo bridal portraits during this time!

5:00 PM



## Groomsmen Photos

One way to make sure we stay on schedule for groomsmen portraits is to have someone put the boutonnieres on the guys 15-20 minutes BEFORE their portraits begin. It can be trickier than you think! We will spend 30 minutes taking photos of the groomsmen + groom. At this time, we can also take a few photos of the groom with his immediate family if they are on site. We will take groomsmen group shots, usher group shots (if on site), individuals with each groomsmen, and solo groom portraits during this time!

5:30 PM



## Ceremony + Reception Details

The last bit of time before the ceremony is for the bride and groom to relax before they say "I do!" The bride goes into "hiding" before the ceremony so that guests do not see her. Guests typically arrive 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. At this time, I will photograph the ceremony and reception spaces. I will use this time to shoot the reception decor UNTOUCHED. If the ceremony and reception are in different locations, I recommend having a cocktail hour outside of the main reception area. That way, I can capture an empty room shot of the entire reception space once I arrive on site but before guests start placing their purses, coats, and phones on the tables, etc.

6:00 PM



## The Ceremony

It's time to get married!! Most ceremonies are roughly 20-30 minutes long. If your ceremony is longer than 20-30 minutes, we'll make adjustments to the timeline. Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass by so quickly! Don't forget to HOLD that first kiss for 3-5 seconds so I can get perfect shots for you! (If you are planning on having a full mass, please add one hour of coverage to your wedding package.)

6:30 PM



## Family Formals

We'll need about 20 minutes for family formals, and I will send a questionnaire before the wedding where you can list out the shots that you want. It is important that you inform your family members to stay for family photos well in advance! You don't want family members wandering off to the reception- especially if it is not on the same property! Consider asking your officiant to make an announcement for family AND bridal party to stick around.

6:50 PM



## Bridal Party/Bride + Groom Portraits

During family formals, I ask that the bridal party sit in the back so they are all together when it is time for bridal party photos. We will take photos of the entire bridal party (bridesmaids, groomsmen, any ring bearers or flower girls, house party, etc.) before starting photos of the bride and groom. The bride and groom take photos while the guests are mingling at cocktail hour. This part of the day usually takes 40 minutes or as much time as you will give me! Plan on having a true cocktail HOUR between the ceremony and reception.

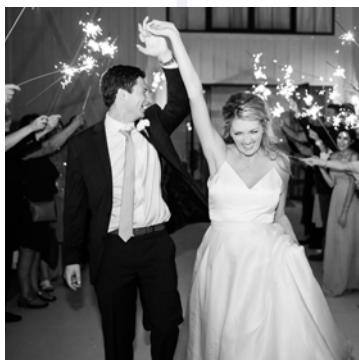
7:30 PM



## Time to Party!

This is when the bridal party lines up for introductions and the party begins!! By this part of the day, my timeline isn't as strict. I work off of the natural light, so after the sun has set, my portrait time is over, and I begin focusing on the reception events. I will follow the order of events that you provide me for this part of the evening. Depending on when the sunset is on your wedding day, I always try to sneak the bride and groom out for 5 minutes of sunset photos during the reception. Or, we can take 5 minutes of nighttime photos outside by twinkly lights, etc.

11:00 PM



## The Grand Exit

After you have danced the night away, we will get ready for your Grand Exit. This shot typically depends on the amount of wedding day coverage included in your package. If your coverage does not extend until the Grand Exit, we have several options! We can always do what I like to call a "sparkler photo" (or bubble photo, etc.) where you tell your guests that you are taking a special photo outside but do not leave after the photo. Or, we can have your bridal party line up outside to light sparklers or blow bubbles without taking your guests away from the party. This way, you get your perfect shot without having to upgrade your coverage!

# SAMPLE TIMELINE

## TIMING REMINDERS

BRIDAL DETAILS: 30 MINS

BRIDESMAIDS ROBE SHOTS + GROOM GETTING READY: 30 MINS

BRIDE GETTING DRESSED + SPECIAL REVEALS: 20-30 MINS

FIRST LOOK OR LETTERS: 10-15 MINS

BRIDESMAIDS PHOTOS: 30 MINS

GROOMSMEN PHOTO: 30 MINS

CEREMONY: 20-30 MINS

FAMILY FORMALS: 20 MINS

BRIDAL PARTY GROUP SHOTS: 10-15 MINS

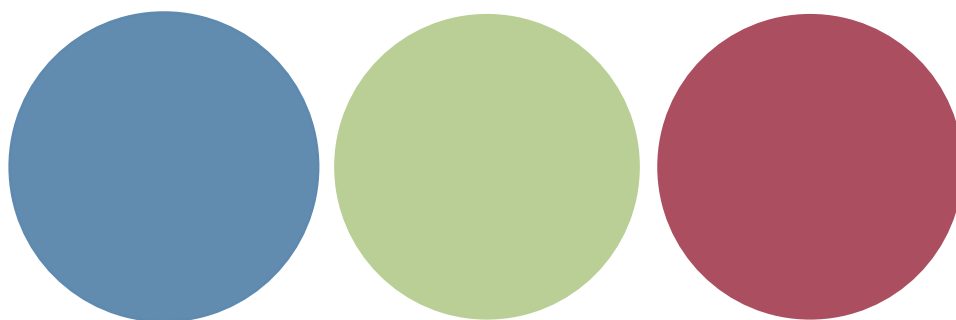
BRIDE + GROOM PORTRAITS: 20-30 MINS

Remember- Each wedding day is different, so this is just a sample timeline based on an 8 hour wedding day. Wedding timelines may differ based on travel time between venues, time restrictions at churches, etc. We will work together to perfect your timeline two months before your wedding via the "Wedding Photography Questionnaire" I will send you. The single most important takeaway is to plan your ceremony at least 1.5 to 2 hours BEFORE the sunset if at all possible! This allows us to have plenty of time to take portraits before the sun goes down, and it means bride and groom portraits can be taken before it gets dark.

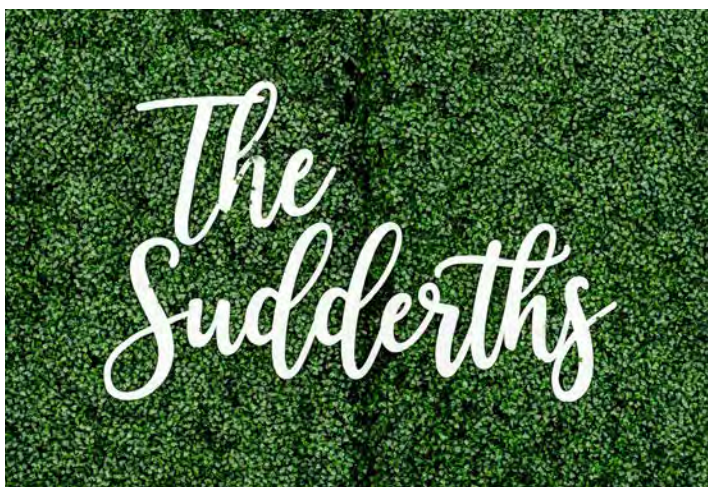
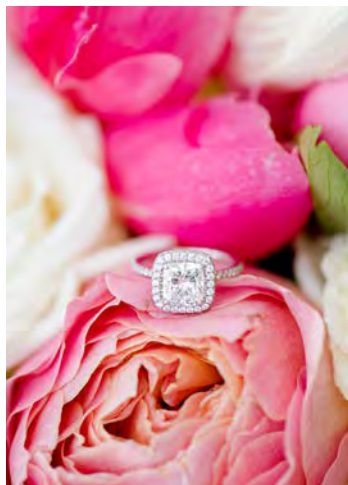
# design Tips

## TELL YOUR COLOR STORY

One of the best ways to get amazing wedding photos is to tell your story with consistent colors throughout the day! Decide on a color palette with one or two primary colors and a few accent colors, and see how you can incorporate those colors in your invitations, flowers, reception decor, cake, and bridal party attire! If you want to go all out, you can even add up-lighting that matches your wedding colors! Another tip is investing in ribbon or extra fabric that matches your wedding colors so that I can use those pops of color while styling your detail shots. AND, make sure to ask your florist to provide some loose blooms (flowers that don't quite make it into the arrangements!) so that we have some pretty florals to play with for styled invitation shots. When the colors are consistent throughout the day, your wedding images will look like they belong on a magazine spread! With that being said, it also makes your wedding album spreads look crisp and cohesive!

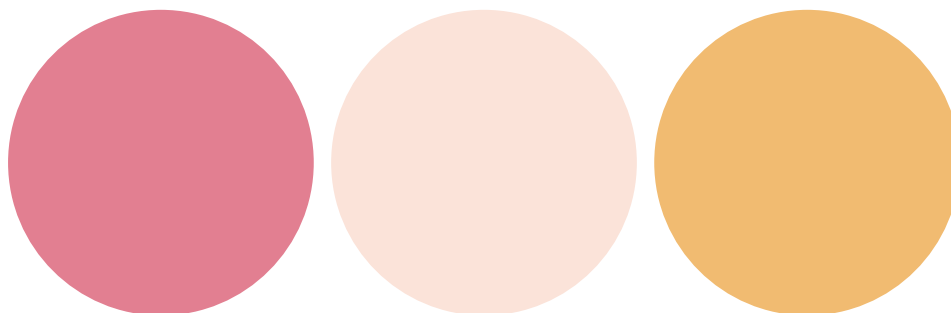






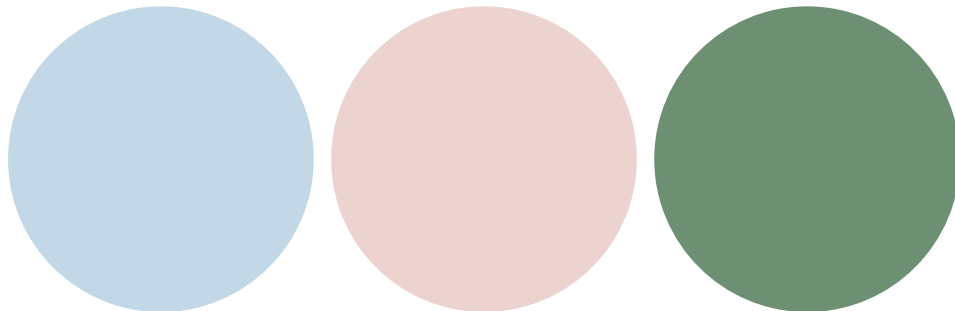
## THE BRIDAL BOUQUET

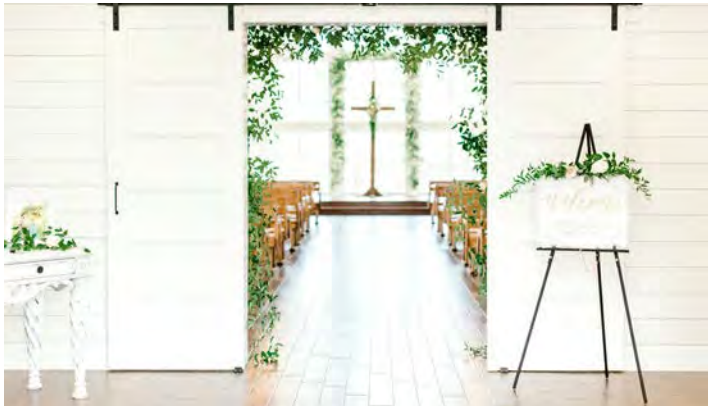
When deciding what to invest in on your wedding day, I want to give a little tip that can make a huge impact on the way your images turn out! I recommend making your bridal bouquet a big priority! If the bride has a gorgeous bouquet, I can make the entire day look like there were beautiful fl rals everywhere! I can use the bridal bouquet to spruce up bridal detail shots, bridesmaids portraits, AND even bride and groom portraits as well. The bridal bouquet is a focal point, so I highly recommend getting your DREAM bouquet and investing less on the bridesmaids bouquets if needed. Remember: You can also reuse all of the bouquets as centerpieces later on at the reception! (Also, you will need your bouquet at the very beginning of the day. Have it delivered to the room where the bride is getting ready. I'll need it for detail shots, and then you'll have it for your fi st look!)



## MY DESIGN SECRET

I'm about to let you in on my number one design secret! If you are looking for a way to make your ceremony, family photos, and portraits really stand out, then you should think about investing in a floral arch! I have seen floral arches used in a lot of creative ways, and they can be very versatile throughout the day. For example, a gorgeous floral arch was the backdrop for Lauren and Will's ceremony, and then we took family formals and bridal party portraits underneath it as well. A floral arch can create the illusion that there are flowers EVERYWHERE on your wedding day! I've even seen couples move the floral arch behind their sweetheart table or behind the cake table at the reception so that it can still be a prominent design at the wedding even its intended use at the ceremony. A floral arch can dress up ANY background and transform your ceremony space. And trust me, it looks amazing in photos! Flower lovers rejoice!!



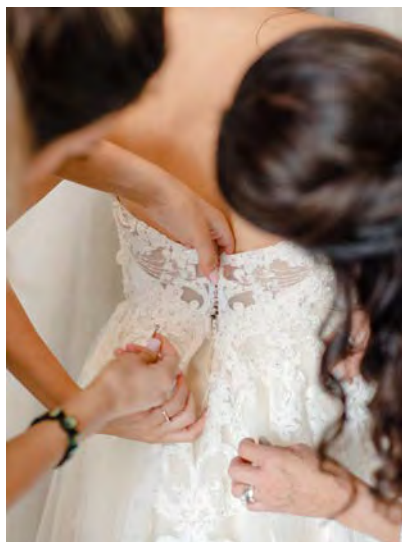








# pre ceremony



## 1 a) BRIDE GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding! Hopefully all of the little details are taken care of, and you're relaxing with your best friends while your hair is being done. If certain items haven't been checked off of the to-do list, it's time to hand them over to someone else. Delegation is a key part of a stress-free wedding day. I know it's hard to hand over the decorating duties and all of the last minute things that need to be done, but it really is important to relax the morning of your wedding. The rest of the day is going to be fast-paced and filled with a lot of emotions. Take advantage of this down time! There are a few things to consider about the "getting ready" portion of the day. Do you want to share a "first look" with your groom or dad or any other person who plays a huge role in your life? Will you and your groom be exchanging gifts dur-

ing this time? Are there certain women in your life who would appreciate seeing you get into your gown? Some brides want very few people around for this moment. Other brides love having aunts and grandmas present. It's totally up to you! A few other things to consider....as you get ready to put your dress on, refrain from putting any jewelry on. I love shooting all of those final steps once you're in your gown! Speaking of the gown, if your gown is on a plastic hanger, try to make a note to bring a wooden or custom hanger along for pictures. Lastly, a clean getting ready space makes photos run more smoothly. I'll instruct you to get dressed as close to the windows as possible so we can use that natural light. If you are wondering where to stash your bridesmaids' belongings, place them in the bathroom or in the darkest corner!



## BRIDAL DETAILS

The whole day begins with the DETAILS! I photograph a bride's details in a way that matches and showcases the style of the entire wedding day. In some ways, the details set the stage for the look of the whole wedding, and I love having ample time to stylize and shoot everything from the dress to the jewelry to grandma's handkerchief! Below you'll find a list of the most common details that I shoot. I ask brides to gather any details they have before I arrive so that I can walk in, say hello to everyone, and then begin shooting right away!

dress  
veil / hair pieces  
rings (all three)  
shoes  
bouquet & bout  
jewelry  
perfume  
invitation suite  
borrowed & blue

the earlier,  
the better

When there is downtime at the beginning of the day, like when I'm giving the bride some privacy to put her dress on, we will go to the reception and ceremony spaces to take photos of the decor. If possible, try to coordinate with your vendors to have the reception space set up as early as possible so we can take those photos before guests begin arriving!

think outside  
of the box

Sometimes, depending on the theme and "look" of the wedding day, there may be some extra elements that you could include when you gather your details. For example, if you're having a wildflower inspired wedding, you can ask your florist for a few loose blooms. Or, if you're having a more glam wedding, you can bring an extra piece of sparkly fabric that matches your table cloths. I can use these extra elements to style gorgeous shots of your bridal details. This REALLY makes for beautiful, consistent album spreads!

collect all  
three rings

The most common detail missing when I arrive is the rings! Moms, officiants, and planners will tell you to hand over your wedding band to the best man before the day begins. However, it's actually better to hand it over AFTER I get the chance to take some great ring shots in the morning!

bring the  
bouquet

Don't forget about the bouquet! Have the bouquets and boutonnieres delivered to the bride before the first look so the bride and groom will be fully prepared for portraits afterwards. The first look and bridesmaids photos usually happen at the beginning of the day, so it's great if bouquets can be delivered as early as possible!

*One thing that helps the timeline run smoothly is if the bridal suite is clean and cleared out before I arrive! If personal items are stashed away (preferably in the bathroom or in the darkest corner of the room), there will be less distractions in the background as you put your dress on, etc. If you have a say in where you get ready on the day of your wedding, look for a bridal suite or hotel room with white walls and minimal decor. Simplicity is key so that the focus is on you! Even more important is the availability of natural light coming in from the windows. Of course, this isn't always possible. When it isn't an option, we will take some "getting ready" photos outside to ensure you still have beautiful images of that portion of the day.*





## 1b) GROOM GETTING READY

Grooms, this section is for you! We want you to be in the loop with how your wedding day will flow. At the start of the day, Alex will greet you and let the groomsmen know that it's time to start getting dressed. You can let your groomsmen know to have their dress pants and shirts on before the photographers arrive. Alex will take photos of the guys putting on the last minute details like pocket squares and bow ties. Then, Alex will pull the groom aside for his getting ready photos. We know this part of the day might seem a little

awkward, but Alex will guide you through exactly what to do from showing off your cuff links to fixing your bow tie. If you'd like, you can ask your Best Man or parent to help you with your cuff links or jacket if you need extra assistance. When it's time to put on your boutonniere, you can ask your mom or other special family member to help you. Depending on where you are getting ready, we might take your photos inside the groom's room or outside on the nearest porch to get some extra natural light.



## UNIQUE TIES & BOW TIES



During your getting ready photos, Alex will ask you if you have any special details you'd like to show off in the photos. Sometimes this is a special watch, a new pair of cuff links from your bride, your class ring, or even some goofy socks.



TIPS FOR THE GROOM

## GROOM PORTRAITS



Once you're finished getting ready, Alex will take some portraits and head shots of you outside. He will guide you through some posing suggestions (including exactly what to do with your hands!), so don't be nervous about these solo photos. He knows exactly how to show off your suit, vest, and suspenders in the best way!



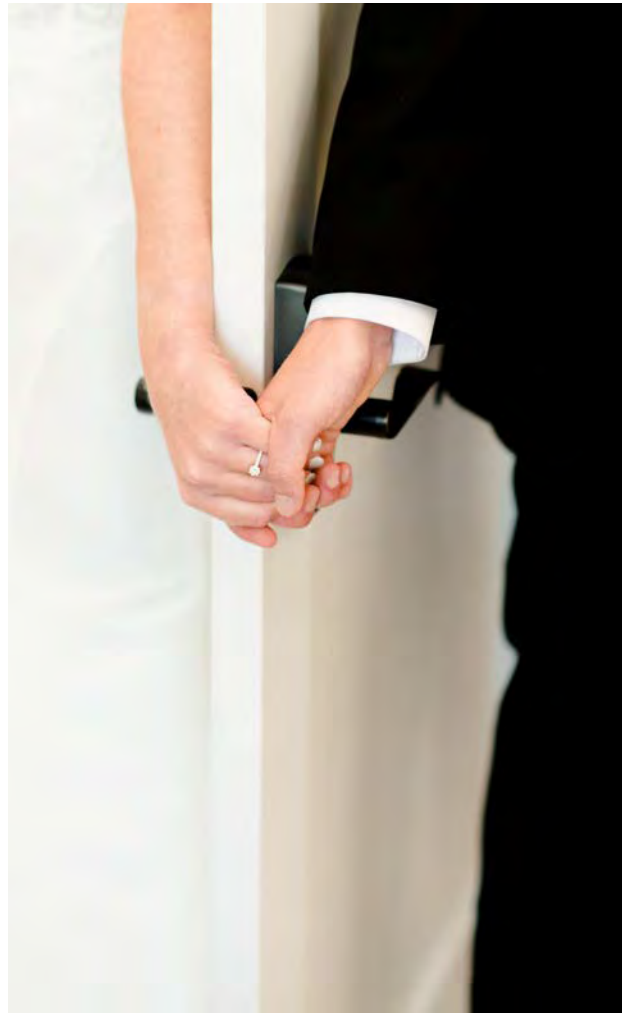
Alex will let you know when the official groom and groomsmen photos are coming up. During that time, we will need all groomsmen and ushers (if applicable) to go outside for photos. We know it gets hot in Texas, so we do our best to finish as quickly as possible! We will take group photos as well as individual photos of you with each groomsmen and your immediate family members.

## 2) LETTER AND GIFT EXCHANGE

A first look is completely personal preference! Though it has its advantages, some couples prefer the traditional approach of seeing each other for the first time as the bride walks down the aisle. It is up to you and your groom to decide what you are most comfortable with and excited about! If you choose not to see each other before the ceremony, you can always opt to do a “behind-the-corner” letter exchange as I like to call it. This means you are together before the ceremony without seeing each other. You’re usually separated by a door, corner, etc. During this time, you can just hold hands and talk or exchange letters and gifts. This is a cute photo opportunity, and it allows you to have some time together before the ceremony. While there are cameras watching you, I always advise my couples to block them out. This moment isn’t all about the photos- it’s about sharing a moment together before embarking on one of life’s most amazing adventures! Or, you can exchange gifts or read letters individually like the photo on the right.



BEHIND-THE-CORNER



INDIVIDUALLY





If you and your bride opt to do a separate letter and/or gift exchange, Alex will let you know when it's time to open your bride's gift before the ceremony. He'll move you to a private spot so that you can open your gift without any interruptions. Meanwhile, your bride will be opening her gift individually somewhere else on the property.



TIPS FOR THE GROOM

### 3) FIRST LOOK WITH GROOM



A first look is when the bride and groom see each other for the first time on their wedding day! This takes place before the ceremony, and it's a private moment between just the two of them. There are a lot of advantages to doing a first look, but it is the less traditional choice. Sharing a first look usually diminishes some of the wedding day nerves because it takes the pressure off of seeing each other for the first time at the altar in front of all of your wedding guests. You get to see your groom light up when he sees you in your dress, and you get to embrace each other and share in the excitement of the day together!

It's also a great time to take bride and groom photos, and you won't have to hide from each other for the rest of the morning. This means you get to spend MORE time together on your wedding day!

From a photography perspective, a first look is a great choice because it usually means you get double the photos together since we can take photos before AND after the ceremony! It's especially important for winter weddings because sometimes the sun has already gone down by the time the ceremony concludes.

I promise that doing a first look won't make walking down the aisle feel any less special. Nothing can prepare you for the sweet wave of emotions you feel when you lock eyes on each other as you walk down the aisle.

Most importantly, remember that a first look is YOUR choice and it's a REAL moment for you and your groom; it's not just a staged moment for photos!



#### 4) FIRST LOOK WITH DAD



Your wedding day is a special day for many of the people in your life, like your parents! If you'd like to do a first look with your dad, we can add that sweet moment to your photo timeline right after you put your dress on. This is a great time to exchange special gifts as well. We encourage you to explain to your dad ahead of time what a first look is so he is not surprised by the cameras. Let him know we will grab him when you're ready to see him and lead him to the photo spot. Remember, this is a big day for your dad as well, so don't put too much pressure on him to react a certain way or say a certain thing. Dads get caught up in the moment, too, and we promise they think you look beautiful and perfect in every way even if they can't find the words- haha!

## 5) BRIDESMAIDS REVEAL



Your bridesmaids have played a huge role in your wedding journey, so this is their chance to really soak in the fact that YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED! This is such a fun part of the day because the girls are so excited to see you in your dress for the first time! We will lead them where they need to be for this special moment, and then we will have you tell them when to turn around or open their eyes. (Cue the squealing and happy tears!)

## 6) BRIDESMAIDS & GROOMSMEN PHOTOS

If you do a fi st look, we will take all of the group bridal party photos before the ceremony. Bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and any younger bridal party members will be in the big group shots. If you choose not to do a fi st look, we will take bridesmaids + bride photos separately, and then groomsmen + groom photos separately. Bridesmaids will need to dry off their bouquets, and groomsmen will need to pin on their boutonnieres and insert their pocket squares before photos start. Make sure someone is assigned to help with boutonnieres, bow ties, and pocket squares because they can be tricky to do if you've never done them before!









During the group shots, we will position everyone to look great in the photos. We will capture a variety of images, and we may ask you to occasionally unbutton your jacket, move your hands to your pockets, etc. You can let us know if there are any special groupings you are wanting captured, such as brothers, roommates, high school buddies, etc.



TIPS FOR THE GROOM

# The ceremony

Here it is! The moment everyone has been waiting for! The music is playing, and the guests have been seated by the ushers. The coordinator is lining up the bridesmaids while giving the musicians a 5 minute warning. The bride is about to walk down the aisle to the love of her life, and chances are she's dreamed about this moment for a long time! Vows will be shared and promises will be made. This is what it's all about! In a world full of wedding blogs, Pinterest, and bridal magazines, it's easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the "prettiness" of the event. While details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day- everlasting marriage! Rain or shine- you get to marry the love of your life!



## INDOOR CEREMONIES



## LIGHTING

If you are having an indoor ceremony, it is always best to have EVEN lighting at the altar. If there are spotlights on the bride and groom, I will not be able to expose the rest of the bridal party. It is better to have soft, even light across the whole altar. If your indoor ceremony has large windows behind the altar area, I highly recommend setting up an arch that has a curtain to diffuse some of the light coming in from the windows. Too much light coming in from the windows can create a glare in your photos, so we want to try to avoid that for you!

## ORDER OF SERVICE

I have seen so many couples do many AMAZING things during their ceremony. I've photographed couples washing each other's feet, symbolizing that they want to serve each other for the rest of their lives. Some couples share communion while some light a unity candle. The options are limitless! As you plan your ceremony, make sure you design it to be exactly what the two of you envision it to be. This is your day! If you have the freedom to be creative, then by all means, be creative! Please let me know what to expect during the ceremony so I can position myself appropriately during key times.



## UNPLUGGED CEREMONY

We have all heard about guests ruining the “First Kiss” shot by stepping in front of the photographer or leaning into the aisle with their cell phones. You may think your guests are more well-behaved than this, but please do not take any chances! Consider having an “unplugged ceremony” by encouraging friends and family to put away their cell phones and be fully present during the ceremony. You want to see your friends’ smiling faces when you walk down the aisle- not the back of their cell phones! This happened at my own wedding, and I REALLY wish I would have put up a sign that asked guests to put away their cell phones.

## COORDINATION

Hiring either a full event planner or just a day-of coordinator is SO important! (A coordinator lines everybody up to walk down the aisle and handles other vendor logistics.) Brides realize very quickly that if they do not have someone in charge of the coordination of the day, that responsibility will automatically fall on the mother of the bride, the photographer, or the bride herself. That leads to unnecessary stress for everyone involved! If you need any recommendations on wedding coordination services, I would love to share some of my favorite vendors with you. If your coordinator is in charge of setting up the chairs for your ceremony, we recommend you ask them to include side aisles so we can navigate up and down the sides of the ceremony. That’s how we are able to take close-up photos of your faces during key parts of the ceremony, like the vows and ring exchange.

