

SARANDON SMITH ENGAGEMENTS

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A preparation
and style guide
for your
engagement

WELCOME

There is a reason why I include an engagement session in all of my wedding collections.

Your engagement session is a time for us to meet in person, for you to get comfortable in front of the camera, and for us to discover which poses you like or don't like.

You can expect your engagement session to last between 1 and 1.5 hours and we will aim to get a good variety of poses and backgrounds. It will also give you a good idea of what we can accomplish in a specific block of time.

On your wedding day it is common for us to have anywhere between 35 minutes (at minimum) and an hour for portraits of the two of you and I find that your engagement session is a great opportunity to set a healthy expectation of what amount of variety you can expect in your wedding gallery.

I am looking forward to meeting you, laughing with you, and making beautiful imagery for you.

- Sarandon



CARSON & JAKE



STYLE AND FIT



I encourage clients to bring two to engagement sessions; one more casual and one more dressy.

You want to be true to yourselves when choosing outfits for your photos, but also don't hesitate to dress up. When it comes to engagement sessions you can never be overdressed.

If you're hoping to bring a high-fashion feel to your engagement session I recommend looking at clothing rental services like Rent the Runway. They have a fantastic selection of pieces and you can get a handful of options to try on for less than the price of purchasing a whole new outfit.

Use this link for 40% off a one month membership of Rent the Runway (you can cancel after your session):

<https://www.renttherunway.com/shares/qSiLdWMSei6C3FHg-00JOpQ==>

~Fit is an important part of looking and feeling your best in photos. ~

When you are planning your outfits make sure to try on each article of clothing and check for the fit. If you don't think it fits perfectly, then perhaps consider trying something else. Clothing that is too big or too small can be unflattering in photos. A good rule of thumb is that you should be able to move normally without worrying about adjusting your clothing. If you are preoccupied by your clothing it can



With that being said, your outfit choices shouldn't be constrained to a tailored suit, structured dress, etc.. A great recipe for flattering outfits is to offset something loose and flowy, with another piece of clothing that is more fitted.

A note on military uniforms:

If you are planning on wearing a uniform please pay extra close attention to the specific regulations for that uniform, and make sure you bring along all required pieces for it. Also double check that there is nothing else that would cause you to be out of regulation while wearing your uniform. i.e. piercings or exposed tattoos, out-of-regs haircuts



Session Spotlight: Carson & Jake

For this session at the Kennedy Center Jake wore his Navy uniform while Carson opted for a light blue jacket and khaki pants.

Carson's outfit is lighter which balances the weight of Jake's dark uniform.

See their full gallery here:

<https://sarandonsmith.passgallery.com/-carsonandjakeportraits>

RYAN & MADELYN



COLOR AND PATTERN

Although there are exceptions, the best colors for photos tend to be neutrals. This is because bright colors, especially neon or fluorescent colors have the effect of reflecting colors onto your face and skin.

To avoid an unpleasant color cast in your photos choose more low-key hues like navy blue, creams, muted greens, muted purples, and blush tones.

Additionally, choosing lighter colors will give your photos a much brighter feel whereas dark colors can make your photos feel heavy.

If you are going to wear a darker color try and balance it with a lighter piece elsewhere in your outfit. A light top with dark pants, or light shirt under a darker suit works well.

Lastly, while it is tempting to match outfits it is actually best to coordinate by using colors and styles that work well together but are still different.



I recommend avoiding thin stripes, chevron, or small checkered or polkadot patterns, as they can cause visual distortion in your photos and even make your outfits look different colors.

If a pattern is smaller than a quarter it's probably not the best option. I.e. the dress I am wearing in my photo on page 3 is a gorgeous dress but it was difficult to photograph and took a very long time to edit to make it look nice. Don't follow my bad example.



Hair and Makeup

If you are a makeup wearer and/or planning on having your hair or makeup done for your wedding consider making an appointment to have it professionally done for your session. It is a great opportunity to test run your wedding hair and makeup so you know exactly how it will look in photos or if you want to change anything for your wedding day.

Session Spotlight:

I loved Ryan and Madelyn's light and airy outfits for their engagement session at the Notre Dame of Maryland University campus in Baltimore.

Madelyn's white dress was loose and the length showed off her legs and was perfectly proportional.

The colors of Ryan's outfit complimented Madelyn's dress and maintain the light color palette.

The stripes on his shirt are wide enough that they don't cause any chromatic aberration (a type of visual distortion) and they give nice added visual interest.

It's great when your outfits compliment each other in color palette AND pattern/texture, and Ryan and Madelyn did a great job with this.

FYI, their session was 30 minutes long.



Scroll through their gallery here:

<https://sarandonsmith.passgallery.com/-ryanandmadelynengaged>

Bonus Tips:

- 1.) Plan your outfits using the tips at the beginning of this guide
- 2.) Schedule an appointment to get your hair and makeup done! This isn't mandatory, but it's a great opportunity to test drive your wedding-day look
- 3.) Fill out your engagement session questionnaire. If you are reading this, your questionnaire should be in your inbox (if not, send me an email!)
- 5.) Clean your rings
- 6.) Relax and get ready to enjoy your session. Think of it as a date!

What to Bring:

- Pets! I love when pets come to engagement sessions!

If you are bringing your pet I do *REQUIRE* that you bring an experienced handler who is familiar with your pet and can manage them without you. The last thing we want is to lose valuable time during your session because you are preoccupied with your pet.

- A big blanket to sit on or wrap up in
- Extra makeup for touch-ups
- A lint roller
- Any other fun props you want!

