



SAMI KATHRYN
PHOTOGRAPHY

THE SKP ENGAGEMENT SESSION GUIDE
Notes for a Joyful & Beautiful Engagement Session



Welcome

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE

This is such an exciting time for you! I'm sure your mind is racing with all that needs to be planned. It's all very exciting, but it can also be somewhat overwhelming. Your engagement session should be a time to slow down, have some fun with your partner, and document this sweet season of engagement. My goal as a wedding photographer *is to make this aspect of the wedding planning process simple, help you feel comfortable in front of the camera, and capture memories that you will cherish for the rest of your life.*

Photography is more than just images, it's a real part of your documenting your love story and preserving the legacy of your relationship. My hope is that you have both an wonderful experience, beautiful images, and heirlooms to pass down for generations.



Meet

SAMI KATHRYN

Sami Kathryn is a Dallas-based wedding and portrait photographer. Sami believes in thoughtfully selected details that celebrate unique relationships, sentimental & intentional heirlooms, and images that illustrate the legacy of love. Most of all, Sami believes in marriages that are even more beautiful than wedding days.

Her photography style is purposeful and timeless with attention to details and intimate moments that speak to marriage and legacy. A heart for serving people with thoughtful care allows her to create heirloom images that keep clients at the center of each photograph, capture personality and genuine love stories, and will be passed from generation to generation.



Planning for Your

ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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

Now on to the fun stuff... like your engagement session! I include engagement sessions in my wedding collections because I truly believe that they are an important part of the entire process.

During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot and how I handle posing and lighting. This session will impact how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are, and how to photograph you in a genuine way. What I will learn about you during your engagement session is invaluable. I guide my couples through posing and coach you into candid moments, so after your engagement session, you'll have confidence knowing that on your wedding day, I will take care of posing you, and you'll have nothing to worry about.





Engagement Session PREPARATION

I realize that preparing for your engagement session can be a little overwhelming. Here are some quick tips for outfits and accessories that will make the engagement shoot preparation a little more manageable so that you can focus on enjoying this step in the process of preparing for your marriage rather than feel stressed over the details.

I recommend couples choose two outfits for their engagement session: a dressy casual outfit and then an outfit that is more formal. This will give you variety in your images.

Rather than trying to match colors with one another, instead, try to pick outfits and accessories that coordinate. Avoid clothing with graphics, and if you choose a pattern, make sure it's not overwhelming or distracting.

Make sure you feel comfortable in what you're wearing. Choose silhouettes that make you feel confident. Empty your pockets prior to your shoot - you don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets.

Be on time for your session! Your session time is based on sunset, and that ideal lighting only lasts so long.

Finally, Relax! There is no expectation for you to be a model at your session. I am here to help you along the way, to guide you into poses, and to make sure you look your best. Enjoy this time together, and let it be an enjoyable memory in the wedding planning process. Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!



Selecting the Right LOCATION

The location of your engagement session is up to you. The first thing to decide is what type of environment you'd like to showcase in your engagement photos. Most of my couples opt for a natural location or an urban location. Think through what type of venue fits your personality and relationship.



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

As you think through options for your engagement session, if there's a location that is special to you and your partner, ask if it might be an option for your engagement session! If I don't think it will photograph well, I'll tell you. But, it could be a fun way to incorporate your unique personality into your images.

ENGAGEMENT PROPS

Want your engagement images to look more editorial? Bring a little extra something with you! Whether it's larger items like classic cars, or smaller ones like a picnic blanket or a bottle of champagne, even incorporating just one extra styled item could be a fun way to make your session more unique.

Things to Avoid

Here are some general rules 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 tips 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!

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.



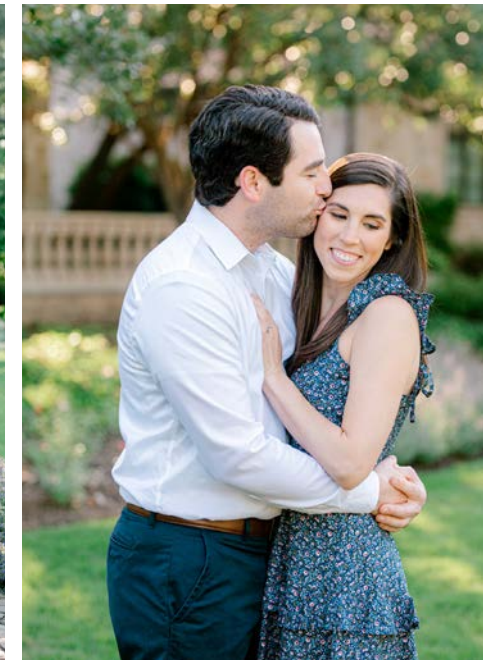
Timeless
STYLE RECIPE

If you're hoping for a more romantic style of shoot that includes light colors, you can actually make outfit choices that will lend your images to turn out timeless and classic.

Neutral Colors: Blushes, tans, light blues, creams, grays, and whites will always result in more of a light look in your images. These colors photograph softer and more romantically! Timeless neutrals will neevr go out of style, keeping your images classic.

Dresses: Dresses are flattering and lend movement to your images. If you're more drawn towards pants, I recommend that you include a dress in at least one of your looks. You would be amazed at how impactful moving fabric softens an image.

Avoid Jeans: If you want your images to be bright & timeless, consider having your groom wear dress pants or a suit instead of jeans.



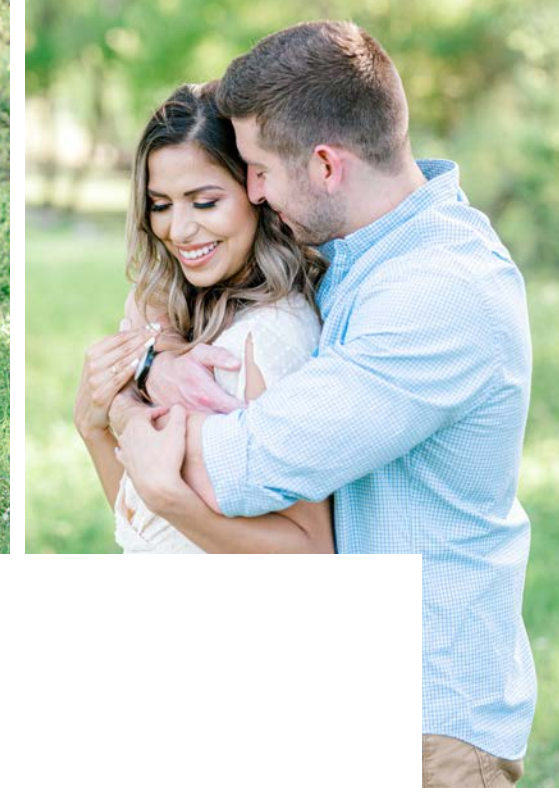
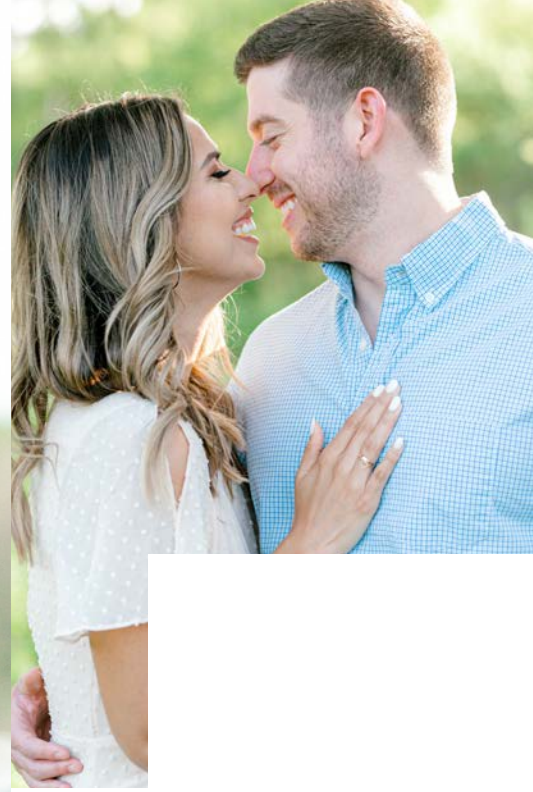


Professional
HAIR AND MAKEUP

Professional hair and makeup is on top of most of my brides' checklists because it looks amazing and removes the stress of getting ready on your own. From lash extensions to blown-out hair, professional hair and makeup will give you an extra boost of confidence in front of the camera, and it always photographs like a dream. If you're working with a makeup artist, have her apply your makeup in natural light, if possible, so that it looks fresh and not too heavy. Plus, that's the type of light we'll be shooting in, so it'll give you the best expectation of how it will translate on camera.

Many brides feel like their makeup is "too much" at first, since it's more than you would wear on a normal day, especially when it comes to false lashes, so if you feel that way at the beginning, don't worry! Good makeup artists know how to get it just right for the camera — and my brides always love the final result.

If you need a recommendation for hair and makeup, let me know and I'm happy to send over a few options of vendors I trust and know will take great care of you.



Preparing YOUR GROOM

As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help your groom know what to expect so that you both enjoy your engagement session! I highly recommend sitting down together and showing your groom some of your favorite engagement sessions that I have photographed. Spend some time together scrolling through my website, which 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 so that you don't feel stressed and on edge with one another when you arrive. 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 engagement session.



Engagement Session
CHECKLIST

- ☐ SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION WITH SKP
- ☐ REVIEW GUIDE FOR STYLE TIPS
- ☐ SCHEDULE HAIR AND MAKEUP APPOINTMENTS
- ☐ CHOOSE YOUR OUTFITS
- ☐ GET YOUR NAILS DONE
- ☐ CLEAN YOUR RING
- ☐ PLAN A FUN POST-SESSION DATE NIGHT
- ☐ PACK A BAG WITH:
 - ☐ *Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots*
 - ☐ *Second outfit, including shoes and accessories*
 - ☐ *Touch-up makeup and mirror*
 - ☐ *Water bottle (for warmer sessions)*
 - ☐ *Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)*



One
FINAL NOTE

I know I just gave you a lot to think about! I created this guide to help make your engagement session experience something you'll look back fondly on for years and years to come. At the end of the day, though, the location you choose and the outfits you select won't matter nearly as much as the memories you make together. Your future marriage is the most important thing to me, and I want your engagement session to be a time for you to just be yourselves and enjoy it. Have fun together. Laugh a lot. And I'll take care of the rest!

Final
THOUGHTS

Last, but certainly not least, thank you for trusting me with your special day. I am so honored to be capturing your memories, and I cannot wait to celebrate alongside you!

Enjoy this season of planning 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 and your wedding day.

thank you



I CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE YOU
AND YOUR MARRIAGE!

Love,

Jami

WEBSITE | www.samikathryn.com

EMAIL | hello@samikathryn.com INSTAGRAM | [@samikathryn](https://www.instagram.com/samikathryn)

A romantic close-up photograph of a couple about to kiss. The man is on the right, leaning in, and the woman is on the left, with her blonde hair visible. A large white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the photographer's logo and name.

SK

SAMI KATHRYN

PHOTOGRAPHY

WEBSITE | www.samikathryn.com

EMAIL | hello@samikathryn.com INSTAGRAM | [@samikathryn](https://www.instagram.com/samikathryn)