

senior session Guide

LEM PHOTOGRAPHY LLC





you've made it!

Senior year is a big year. IT'S YOUR YEAR. Thank you so much for choosing me to be your senior photographer!

In addition to taking amazing photos of you, I also want you to have a memorable experience. Together, we will create a session that is specifically tailored to you. To provide you with the greatest experience possible, we will discuss every detail, from the location to your outfit.

This guide contains useful tips on how to be ready for your session as well as what to anticipate before, after and during the creative process. Please grab a cup of coffee and take a few minutes to browse through these pages. Careful planning and teamwork are a big part of what makes a senior session successful.

Let's get started!



what to expect

STEP 1 PRE-SESSION

After your parent or legal guardian signs the contract and pays their deposit, I'll email you a questionnaire to complete. This is a great opportunity for me to learn a little bit about you and for you to start considering locations and other details.

We'll have a check-in a week or so before your session to go over all the specifics (time, place, attire, etc.) and make a game plan!

STEP 2 SESSION DAY

We'll meet up at the location you've selected and begin shooting. Typically senior sessions last about 2 hours and include 2 locations and 3 outfits.

Always remember to bring everything you might need during the session, such as extra clothing and accessories, water, chapstick, touch-up makeup, wet wipes, a brush, and a parent or guardian.

STEP 3 AFTER SESSION

Relax and unwind! A few days following your session, I will post a sneak peek on social media. Since your final gallery won't be available until 2-4 weeks following your session date, keep in mind your yearbook deadline.

A link to your gallery will be sent to you through email or text, which will be accessible online for 6 months. You can order prints through your online gallery or you can download the gallery and print at whichever print shop you regularly use. A Flash drive of the session can also be purchased for an addition charge of \$50.



Your story Your story

Your story Your story

Your story Your story

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location



One of the most fun aspects of organizing any photo shoot is selecting the location for your session. Consider the distance you're willing to travel, the time of year you would like your photos taken, and the significance of the location to you.

In addition to this guide I have also sent you my location guide so you can see many location Options that other clients have used. Do not feel limited by this guide however. I love unique one of a kind photo locations that hold a special meaning to you including your school or favorite restaurant etc.

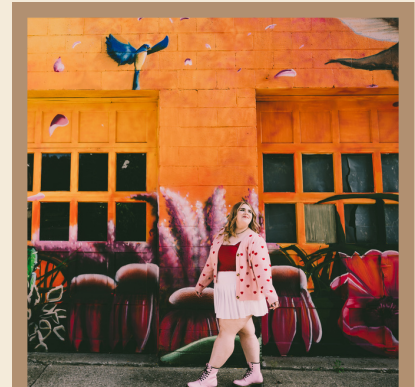
Here are a couple of my favorite locations to check out before you look at the full location guide:



Eastern
Market



Downtown
Detroit



Goldner Walsh
Garden &
Home



✦ time of day ✦

The golden hour, which begins an hour and a half before sunset or an hour after sunrise, is my favorite time to shoot. Golden hour provides even, diffused illumination that brings out the best in colors. Having said that, if we schedule a session and the weather turns out to be entirely cloudy and dreary with no chance of sun, it'll still be an excellent time to shoot. We won't be struggling against the bright sun and dark shadows. I do not recommend shooting in the middle of the day because that is prime time for harsh shadows and uneven lighting.

However, The best time for lighting will also be determined with your location choice as some locations lose the best light earlier than normal golden hour because of tall trees or buildings.







A major decision that requires careful consideration is what to wear for your photo shoot. If you choose to dress in something that doesn't make you feel confident, it may cause you unnecessary stress. So, here are some suggestions for selecting outfits:

Prioritize comfort: If you don't like fitted clothing, leave it at home! It's probably not the ideal option if it makes you feel self-conscious. You should also be comfortable because there are times when we will be laying down, sitting on the ground, walking, running, and possibly even dancing.

Consider your location: Choose outfits that fit with the location you are shooting at. Consider colors that compliment the surroundings and styles that flow with the vibe of the location.

Warm and rich colors look fantastic in photographs and go great with your hair color and complexion. Consider bright, rich, or bold colors.

Include layers: It's always a good idea to consider layers especially in the colder months. A sweater or jean jacket would look cute over a trendy top.

Accessorize: Adding or removing accessories can completely alter the appearance of an outfit without changing your entire style! Consider caps, scarves, bracelets, statement necklaces, earrings, and hair accessories. I can assist you in putting everything together, so bring more than you think you'll need!

Variety: Make sure you have a range of styles to choose from! Consider the following classifications: preppy, edgy, dressy, retro, cute, boho, romantic, city-chic, school- or activity-related.

what to wear



✦ what to wear ✦



WHAT TO WEAR:

- A strapless bra if you want to wear a strapless, off the shoulder, or spaghetti strap top or dress
- Suitable footwear that matches each outfit
- Complimentary layers (jackets, vests, scarves)
- Appropriate attire for the season
- Clothes that are comfortable because you need to be able to sit, crouch, stand, etc.
- Interesting textures (leather jackets, fur vests, denim, sequins, etc)

WHAT NOT TO WEAR:

- Clothing that is wrinkled
- Bra straps that are visible
- Worn-out or dirty footwear
- Clothes with large logos or lettering
- Too many outfits of the same style or color
- Makeup with glitter in it or hair glitter (in certain light it just looks like dandruff or white spots on your face.)





✦ hair and makeup ✦

Your hair and makeup are an important component of a senior session as well! Things to think about include whether you will do your own hair and makeup or hire a professional. I do have recommended hair and Makeup vendors so inquire if you need a recommendation!

If you plan to have your hair and makeup done by a professional, make sure to schedule those appointments well in advance and pick a time that will allow for some flexibility if the appointment takes longer than expected.

If you prefer to do your own hair and makeup, unless you wear a full face on a regular basis, I believe that for your photo session, less is more. If you're used to wearing no makeup or just a light tinted moisturizer with mascara, don't go for big false lashes, deep contour, and overdrawn lips; you won't feel like yourself. Do whatever makes the most sense to you and will make you feel confident in your photos!

Don't forget your nails too (both fingers and toes)! Make sure your nails are perfectly manicured because your hands will be near your face and in the frame in many of the poses we'll do. The ideal nail color for photos is white, light or a French manicure!

I love props! Particularly those that are an important part of who you are. They can greatly enhance a photograph and give it more of a story. You'll be looking at these pictures in ten or twenty years and remembering how you looked and felt then. You are welcome to bring sport equipment, jerseys, uniforms, trophies, medals, musical instruments, dance shoes or costumes, books, personalized signs, vehicles, pets, favorite foods, etc.

OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER TO BRING:

- Touch up stuff—lipstick, makeup, makeup wipes, eyeliner, Kleenex, etc.
- A comb or brush and hairspray
- Extra outfits and shoes
- A towel to wipe your face if considering an outdoor session during the hot season
- Bottle of water



props



prints



Despite the shift to social media and the digital age, I continue to take great pleasure in creating prints that families may enjoy together for centuries to come. In light of this, I provide my seniors the highest quality print goods available.

There are many different items available to purchase from your online gallery, such as prints, canvases, fine art metallic and acrylic mounts, and tote bags.

Also available for purchase by request:

- Flash Drive with full Gallery- \$50
- Hard Cover Photo Book-\$100-500 (varies based on number of pages and size of book)
- Brag Books- \$30-\$100

other tips



- Changing clothes is always a fun task during the session. You will need to either change in your car, in my changing tent, or in a bathroom depending on the location.
- To ensure that your outfit is flattering and comfortable, try it on before the session.
- A pimple that appeared overnight or a few imperfections won't matter because they'll be erased during retouching!
- Please make an effort to wear your contact lenses during the session if you typically use glasses. Lenses may develop an undesirable glare that is difficult to remove. If this is not an option, I will try to minimize glare but I cannot promise it will be possible in every shot.
- Only at your request will birthmarks and scars be removed. Please let me know your preferences when you come in for your session.





lastly, trust your photographer.

Believe me, this is really important! I am aware of the fact that working with a photographer one-on-one may be something you have never done before. It only seems reasonable that you would feel unsure and a little uneasy about the whole process given that you have no idea what to expect, how to pose, or even what to do in front of the camera. But, while this is your first experience, this isn't my first rodeo. I've worked with a lot of seniors over the years. In order to make sure every little detail is taken care of, I will guide and coach you each step of the way. I promise, if you put your trust in me, you won't be sorry — your pictures are going to look amazing!

contact me



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Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do to assist you beyond this guide! In the meantime, happy senior session planning!

Mary Szalkowski



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YOUR
SELF

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