SENIORS
BY MERCY STREET STUDIO
Class of 2023
5 SESSION MISTAKES TO AVOID
6 FUN LOCATION IDEAS FOR YOUR SESSION

WELCOME

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR SENIOR PHOTO SESSION

BEFORE *we meet up for your senior photoshoot, you will be busy getting your look together! Take time to prepare your outfits (iron, ensure fit, use proper undergarments), and prepare yourself ie: hair, makeup, nails (done professionally, by a friend, or yourself). Even if you don't normally wear makeup, a little mascara and lip gloss goes a long way! We can recommend a beauty professional if you need help getting your look together. Whether you want a bold look or something more natural, choose a style that you feel comfortable with.*

Once you are happy with your look, we will meet on location to start capturing your images. We can typically squeeze in 3 or 4 outfits during a one-hour session; it's good to have a variety of images to choose from!

We take advantage of the golden hour, shooting before sunset, which gives us soft, pretty light. Shooting outdoors offers so many gorgeous natural backdrops.

If you wish to be photographed in your prom gown, please bring it with you! We have enjoyed making beautiful portraits with these gowns for our seniors, many of whom missed their proms due to the pandemic.

Finally, don't worry about being photographed the same place as someone else, we can make locations unique, please express any concerns you have. My goal is for you not only to have the very best senior portraits, but to have a fun and memorable experience to kick of a great senior year!

LOCATION:

SIX FUN SENIOR PHOTO SHOOT LOCATION IDEAS

LOOKING *for unique location ideas? We've got you! Aside from our normal coastal areas, below are a few lesser known options for your consideration. We see locations differently; even if you can't picture it, we can usually make magic happen! You can also see some locations on our FB page under our "location" photo album.*

HEAD DOWNTOWN.

Cityscapes offer the best of everything and no two shoots are the same! Take advantage of the colorful buildings, graffiti, colorful doorways in the city. Portsmouth & Dover have a ton of options!

A GARDEN PARK.

If you would prefer a beautiful backdrop of trees, flowers, and wide open spaces, use one of the local parks as a location for your shoot. Prescott Park has a gorgeous flower garden that blooms all summer and fall.

ENJOY AN AMUSEMENT PARK.

Using an amusement park is as fun and as it gets! Incorporate the bright colors and bold patterns into your shots. York Animal Kingdom is a fun colorful option!

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Yes! They have gorgeous landscapes and beautiful flowers! These are pretty vacant on the weekends as well, providing a great opportunity for photoshoots!

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

Want a location that's totally unique? We can share some lesser known spots! And if you're really adventurous, we can stop at a few roadside locations. Sometimes the best spots are the least likely!

FEELING BOOKISH?

How about a favorite library, bookstore, or reading nook? Most book store owners are happy to give permission for a shoot and these make for some really unique images. We've shot at Sheafe Street Books, Book & Bar, and others!

MISTAKES:

THE 5 SENIOR SESSION MISTAKES TO AVOID

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1 **WEARING THE WRONG OUTFIT.**

If you want your photos to look great, make sure your clothing fits properly and is suited to your body type. Try your outfits on beforehand and sit, lean forward, squat, make sure you like the way the outfit looks in a variety of positions (ie: make sure you're okay with the way your tummy looks when you sit in a crop top). Iron & use a hanger to avoid wrinkles. Most importantly: wear a nude bra and underwear. This is important!

2 **DRAMATIC HAIR CHANGE BEFORE YOUR SESSION.**

Your hair plays an important role in your overall look and if you decide to try a new hairstyle too close to your senior session, you could end up with photos that don't feel like "you". And pleeease don't try any DIY hair processes before your shoot.

3 **WAITING TOO LONG.**

Book your senior portraits as early as possible. Summer shoots are amazing and typically the season you have the most available time. Once school starts, your schedule may get filled with sports and other committments. The sun also sets earlier in the fall so our late fall shoots may take place right after school. If you have always dreamed of a fall session, with sweaters and foilage, book early so you'll be able to get in with us on a day your schdule is open.

4 GETTING TOO MUCH SUN.

Having a summer glow is great, but don't overdue it by getting too tan or sunburned right before your senior session. You want your skin tone to look healthy and natural.

5 FORCING A POSE OR A SMILE.

The more natural you are in front of the camera, the better your photos will look. Not every pose or expression is for every person. And that's okay! If you're feeling nervous that's totally normal and it's my job to help put you at ease. I will guide you into poses that flatter you. Even beyond posing, I'll "unpose" you with verbal prompts so that you don't look "forced". You can practice smiles you like in the mirror before your session, try to come up with a few expressions you like and we'll work through those during your session. You're going to be fine! I've helped thousands of people through this process. You're in good hands! I gotchu ;-)

"I just have to thank you for making my girl feel on top of the world yesterday for her senior photo shoot.

The minute we got back into the car, she couldn't stop gushing about how much fun she had with you, and how very kind you were.

To top it all off, your post of one of her photos on your Facebook page put her on top of the world, and then all of the kind comments were the icing on the cake.

My daughter feels beautiful thanks to your expertise."

-Laura (class of 2020 mom)

PROFESSIONAL

WHY HIRE A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR SENIOR SESSION?

THIS *is your senior year, which is a very special time in your life. And while you could probably get a friend or family member to take some photos of you, they simply won't be able to produce what a professional photographer can.*

When you work with a professional photographer, you get the benefit of years of training and experience, which includes knowing how to work with all lighting types, how to read locations to produce amazing images, how to color and compose great shots, and most importantly, how to pose and photograph YOU in a way that brings out your best. Not to mention the fact that they're skilled editors that make sure your photographs are perfect.

A professional will also know how to bring your unique style and personality through in each and every image and will be there to guide you on how to pose and smile in order to get the best photos.

The images we create together will last a lifetime. They are not going to get buried on your phone, they're going to be given as gifts, used in the yearbook, and they're be the ones you look back on and share with your kids some day. (They'll probably make fun of your outfit).

You only get to be a senior once so don't miss the chance to have a professional capture some great photos of you that you'll be proud of for years to come.

PRICING:

FIND A PRICING PACKAGE TO SUIT YOU

MINI SESSION. $215/265/315

Perfect for those who prefer a quick session and those on a budget. Mini-sessions are held on specific dates only, at a location of our choosing. The sessions are 10 minutes and include 4/6/8 high resolution digital images that can be used for the yearbook, prints, or anything else. Space is limited and these sessions fill up quickly. Check available dates on our website under the "shop" page.

CLASSIC SESSION. $250 +

Our classic session includes a 1-hour photoshoot at a location of your choosing with up to 3 outfit changes. Galleries typically include 25+ edited images. Prints and digital images are sold separately. These sessions allow for an individual experience that is tailored to you.

ULTIMATE SESSION. $595+

Our ultimate senior portrait experience is all about you! This session includes many boutique bells & whistles including a pre-shoot consultation, professional hair & makeup, 2 hours of photography, and multiple shoot locations. We also offer a proofing gallery - so you get to choose the images that are edited and placed in your final gallery (up to 35 images!) Prints & digital images are sold separately. This is a once in a lifetime experience, the perfect capstone for your high school years!

THE EDITING PROCESS

Once we've captured some great shots, the editing will begin. During the editing process, we will touch up each photo and remove any minor imperfections.

ORDERING YOUR PHOTOS

Once we have processed your photos, we will load your images onto an online gallery where you can order them as prints or digital images. Most of our clients choose a digital image package so they can print images whenever they want, and use them in the future for gifts, holiday cards or graduation announcements.

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