

HELLO & WELCOME

Dear Bride & Groom,

Congratulations on your engagement! Planning a wedding takes time, patience, and a little creativity, but all the hard work will result in a day you will remember and cherish for the rest of your lives.

At Gold Leaf Photography and Design, we strive to capture the joy, happiness and elation of your wedding day. When all your planning is over, we're there to capture the newly wed bliss. We will be there to photograph the nervous bride putting on her jewelry, the first kiss as a married couple, and all the way through to the dance floor.

We believe wedding photography is an art. Seeing everything without being seen...being everywhere without being felt...creatively capturing all the memorable moments of a wedding day...that's what makes wedding photography an art.

When you open a really amazing wedding magazine spread what knocks you off your socks? The real images of that specific wedding day: the details, family emotions, wonderful guests interactions and of-course the couple in their most beautiful moments.

We're here to perfectly document your stunning wedding day, to help you and your family remember everything that happens on your special day that will help define the rest of your lives together.

I look forward to being your wedding photographer.

Sincerely, Randi Sparkman

WHAT TO EXPECT

If you choose to go with us we will try to learn as much about you and your interests.

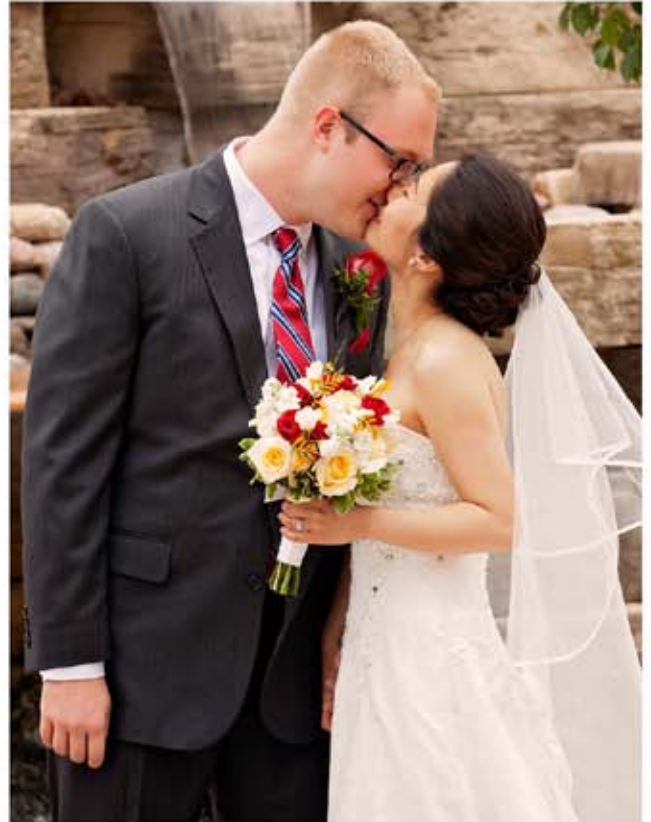
We would schedule a meeting based around your schedule over the next few days. You can visit us or we can meet at your location.

This meeting is more to determine that our personalities are a good fit! It's so important to mesh with your photographer and have great chemistry!

Once we have you on our calendar for your wedding, we'll begin planning your engagement session and/or bridal session dates and locations (at additional cost).

Getting married is such an exciting time in your life and these sessions are the perfect way not only to document it, but it allows us the opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

It's all about learning how we each work and get comfortable before your big wedding day.





Now, your big day is here! My assistant and I will arrive and begin walking through the venue – taking detail shots where we can and get setup in the reception area. We'll shoot your wedding from you getting ready to your final exit. There will probably be tears during your first look.. your vows.. and maybe during in the reception.

Once your images are ready, the process is much like your portrait sessions. We'll post your teasers, blog your images, upload the images to a password protected gallery to share with your friends and family and contact you to send your images and begin designing your album!

It's a fun and seamless process. Our goal is to make your wedding planning experience more enjoyable and turn your moments into tangible memories!

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Engagement sessions are a great opportunity to celebrate this unique phase of life.

It's great to practice before the wedding day! For me, I want the portrait process to be as synergistic as possible, and so having some time to work on posing together as well as get a feel for your taste before the big day is essential to the process.



You learn to trust me. Trust is so essential to my relationships with my clients and when my clients see that I understand them, and that I know how to make them look fantastic in their photos, we can get down to the business of making great photos.

It's just plain fun. Engagement photos are a great excuse to put aside the stressful parts of planning a wedding and just enjoy one another and have some fun together... and you get to use the photos for save-the-date cards, guest books and other pre-wedding items to make your special day even better.

THE BRIDAL SESSION

A bridal session is a photo session centered around the bride (sans groom) in her wedding dress that takes place prior to the wedding day.

This is a matter of personal preference. Many clients have told me that they were really glad they did the bridal session. It's a nice trial run at walking around in your dress; and through the process, some of my brides have discovered that they needed to adjust something – whether an alteration to the fit of the dress or a tweaking of the hair, makeup, or bouquet. We'll have an opportunity to take photos of you by yourself in your dress on your wedding day, but it won't be in such a leisurely and extended fashion.

I recommend scheduling your bridal session with me as far in advance as possible. The actual session should take place at least 6 weeks before your wedding date to allow enough processing time in case you want to display an image or two from the bridal session on your wedding day.



THE PERFECT WEDDING PHOTOS

BRIDAL BEAUTY GUIDE

1. Relax Your Face

Close your eyes, let your lips fall back into place and relax your face



2. Smile with your Eyes

The less smiley, more serious poses are trendy, especially for bridal-party pictures.



3. Less Orange-y Makeup

Although you might feel more beautiful when bronzed, cameras tend to go a bit crazy when picking up yellows and oranges.



4. Avoid the Double Chin

Elongate your neck by moving your head forward slightly and lift up your chin.

5. Fake Sleek Arms

Try lifting your arms out to the sides, just far enough to give the biceps and triceps breathing room especially if you have a sleeveless wedding dress.



6. Stand Up Straight

Put shoulders back, chest forward and pull belly button in toward your spine.

7. Laugh a Little

Laughs can be flattering in photos even if not naturally induced. Plus it's fun :)

8. Banish Bumps

Use lotions and washes with lactic acid to help unclog pores leading up to the big day.



9. Stop the Sweat

Mop up any dampness with a paper towel and dab antibacterial hand gel under your arms to squash unpleasant odors.



10. Get Your Glow On

Get your faux glow two days before the big day. A salon spray tan or at-home self-tanner will look its best 24-48 hours after application.

Try out different formulas for the months leading up to your wedding to find the one that suits you and your skintone best.



1. The Hair

Get a haircut two days before the wedding. Learn which style suits your face. If you're not sure find a photo of a haircut you would like to have and take it to your barber.

2. Wax On, Wax Off

If you choose to wax, you can wax your feet, your chest, your back, your arms, your face and well...your derriere. Never wax your nipples, genitals, eyelashes or ear and nose hair.

3. The Hands

Keep them clean, both by washing and removing dirt from beneath the nails. Use a male hand moisturiser for several weeks before the wedding.

4. The Smile

Buy toothpaste that contains a whitening agent, but avoid any with abrasives in as these can wear away tooth structure.

5. The Manscape

It may seem girly, but trust us, tidying up your eyebrows is important and makes a huge difference to your appearance.

6. The Close Shave

Rub some pre-shaving oil onto your skin, baby oil is a cheap and effective option. Shave when in the shower – or just after, as warm water opens up the pores and softens your face.

WEDDING PHOTOS TIMELINE

I have seen lists long and detailed and so far into the family tree that I don't know who belongs to who. Then, I have also seen lists short and sweet and only include what was most important to the bride and groom. Below is a sample timeline to give you an idea.

- 1:15 Tail end of getting Ready Candid's of Bride & Groom
- 2:30 First Look alone between Bride & Groom
- 2:45 Bridal Party Photos at Park
- 3:00 Bride's Family
- 3:15 Groom's Family
- 3:30 Done with portraits, bridal party drives back to ceremony location
- 4:00 Wedding Ceremony
- 4:45 Receiving Line
- 5:30 Bridal Photos on Beach (10 minute drive there)
- 5:50 Leave Beach for Reception
- 6:15 Bridal Party Enters Reception
- 6:30 Reception Dinner/Speech/Toasts
- 7:15 Cake Cutting
- 7:30 First Dance
- 8:00 Sunset Photos
- 8:15 Photographer Exits



Time	What	Where
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Pre-Ceremony

Ceremony

Cocktail Hour

Reception
