



ENGAGEMENT SESSION PREP GUIDE

Congratulations on your engagement! Time to celebrate it with a fun and laid back engagement photography session with Jessica Wilson Photography. An engagement photo session is a wonderful way for us to get to know each other better before your wedding. It is an informal, very casual session, and it's a great way to announce your wedding date! This time allows people who might consider themselves to be "camera-shy" to discover that having their picture taken can actually be a lot of fun! Maybe you'd like to go back to the location where you first met, or where he (or she) popped the question! There are many wonderful parks and other public venues in the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas that are outstanding places for your engagement session. Please see the following tips to ensure a happy engagement session:

Make sure you are in a good mood! The first tip is a bit cheesy but the idea of being in a good mood prior to the shoot is a very solid one. Whether you believe it or not your emotions transfer in the images and it will be lacking that certain *je ne sais quoi*. Don't do that to yourself. Enjoy a drink or small meal before you see me, to just get relaxed and be happy with each other.

Tidy up your face. Getting dolled up and cleaned up will make you both feel better. Ladies, pluck the brows. Guys comb the mop. When you feel good looking the confidence in yourself and your partner almost always will show in your images.

Coordinate good colors and clothes. Consult a color chart to see what it is that compliments each other, you can find some great tips to coordinate outfits in my "what to do, what to where" tab under my prep guides on my website. Neutral colors like blue, brown, gray, white, cream etc. look fantastic on everyone. Adding a pop of color with a fabulous accessory or shoes can help show your personality. Wedding colors are always an easy go-to when deciding!

Pick a season and location where there is optimal lighting. Having good light is equivalent to an athlete having a good field. They can be the best player in the world, but the conditions might limit their talent. Same goes for photography. It's all about the lighting. Good season and location will give us a much better playing field to work with.

Pick a place that is naturally beautiful. Give a little effort into your search. Pick a location that fits YOU! If that is a more urban feel, look in an alley way downtown St.Paul. Enjoy the outdoors? Look at a beautiful field in Lakeville at sunset or by the lake. Looking for a more elegant feel? Inside the Guthrie Theater Downtown Minneapolis in dripping with elegance! Pick YOU! I can recommend some great engagement photography locations in St.Paul/Minneapolis or the Surrounding areas, but I need to know what will be YOU! We are so lucky to live in such a naturally beautiful state, why not take advantage?

Pets or props are encouraged! They make for great pictures and details. Don't hesitate to bring something that is unique to you or that you would just LOVE to use during your engagement session. Signs, banners, and pets are always fun to coordinate!