

Clothing tips for portraits in the park

In park type settings, certain types of clothing can be more flattering than others. Certain types of clothing can be slimming, give unity to groups, and make the face and eye the focal point of the picture rather than the clothing itself. I don't want you to be overly concerned about clothing, but rather, I just want to give you some basic tips to keep in mind when choosing clothing for a portrait session in the park.

Wear subdued tones. The tones in the park background will be predominately subdued tones, such as darker greens, browns, grays, fall colors, etc., and if your clothing is also subdued your body will blend into the environment leaving your face and eyes as the focal point of the picture. Subdued tones also give a slimming effect in an environment of subdued tones. Bright colors will tend to add weight in appearance and distract from the face. As far as colors go, earth tones are good. Denim is fine.

Choose solid colors. Clothing with a pattern is fine as long as it's not a contrasty, bold pattern, but rather looks more like a solid at a distance. Avoid high contrast in clothing. High contrast is eye catching, and we want your face and eyes to be the focal point of the portrait.

Wear long sleeves. Your flesh tones will be the area of contrast in a setting of subdued tones, so wear long sleeves to ensure that the area of greatest flesh tone is your face. This will contribute to making your face the focal point of the portrait.

Think of details. White athletic shoes will appear a white dots popping out of the picture.

That's about it. I hope it's helpful, and doesn't cause undue concern about everything being right. Your clothing doesn't have to be perfect, but keeping these basic principles in mind may help you when you are picking out clothes to wear for your portrait session.