JWP Studio

CLIENT GUIDE · 2026 EDITION









Your Photo Session Preparation Guide

Everything you need to arrive camera-ready: family, graduate, birthday, and professional headshot sessions, plus a milestone guide for new moms from newborn to 18.

1654 STUMPF BLVD. · GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70056
504.393.0014 · JWPSTUDIO.NET
Serving Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard & St. John Parish

WELCOME TO JWP STUDIO

Capture your essence

At JWP Studio LLC, we craft images that truly reflect who you are. Our approach is all about collaboration: we take the time to understand you and your vision so your portraits reflect your personality and story.[3] A little preparation makes all the difference, and this guide shows you exactly how to get ready.

James Whigham, M. Photog. Cr., CPP · JWP Studio LLC



INSIDE THIS GUIDE

01 Family — In studio & on location — P. 3

02 Graduate — In studio & on location — P. 5

03 Birthday — Celebrate every era — P. 7

04 Headshots — Polished & professional — P. 8

05 New Moms — Milestone ages to 18 — P. 9

Before any session: the essentials

Book & lock in your date

- Portrait sessions are held **Wednesday through Saturday**, and promotions fill fast, so reserve as soon as you get the notice.[2]
- Your **creation fee** secures your date and time; the minimum purchase amount is due on session day.[2]
- You may reschedule **once**; a second change carries an extra fee. Session fees and deposits are prepaid and non-refundable.[2]

Plan with us (about 2 weeks out)

- We recommend a planning consultation about **two weeks** before your shoot, so you can prepare without rushing.[5]
- Tell us **why** you're booking: a milestone, special occasion, or annual update. It shapes every decision.[4]
- Share inspiration photos, must-have poses, and the people or props to include.

Wardrobe that photographs well

- Think about color palettes, sleeve lengths, and textures that complement your skin tone.[5]
- Choose solids or subtle textures over big logos, busy prints, and neon brights.
- Press everything the night before and bring outfits on hangers.

Hair, makeup & grooming

- Consider professional hair and makeup so you look your best on camera.[5]
- Get haircuts 5 to 7 days ahead so edges look natural, not freshly cut.
- Hydrate and sleep well; skip new skincare products the week of your session.

Sources 2 JWP Studio LLC, F.A.Q.: https://www.jwpstudio.net/faq · 3 JWP Studio LLC, About Us: https://www.jwpstudio.net/about-us · 4 PPA, Experience is Everything: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/experience-is-everything · 5 PPA, Setting the Stage: Pre-Session Consultations: https://www.ppa.com/articles/setting-the-stage-how-pre-session-consultations-elevate-your-photography

01 Family Sessions

The people you love, all in one frame. Here's how to make it easy, calm, and beautiful.



PRO TIP FROM JWP STUDIO

"Dress Mom first." Most moms have an outfit they feel confident in. Build the rest of the family's look around hers, and everyone will love the final portraits.[4]

Coordinate, don't match

- Pick a palette of 2 to 3 colors plus neutrals and mix them across the family instead of dressing exactly alike.[6]
- Vary textures (knit, denim, linen, lace) for depth; keep patterns small and limited to one or two people.
- Lay every outfit out together on the bed and take a phone photo; if anything shouts, swap it.
- Shoes show in full-length poses: clean, coordinated, and comfortable.

Prepare the little ones

- Book around nap time. A rested, fed child is the secret to great expressions.
- Pack non-messy snacks (no red juice or chocolate), water, wipes, and a backup outfit.
- Bring one favorite comfort toy or small reward for the end of the session.
- Let us know about sensitivities or special needs ahead of time so we can tailor the session.[4]

Make it personal

- Bring a meaningful prop, like a book, an instrument, or a family heirloom, to add story beyond standing and smiling.[16]
- Planning to include grandparents or the family pet? Tell us when you book so we can plan time and space.
- Write a shot list: whole family, each parent with each child, siblings, couples, and generations.

Session-day game plan

- Arrive 10 to 15 minutes early to settle in, use the restroom, and do final touch-ups.
- Keep the mood light. Laughter and play beat stiff poses every time, especially with antsy kids.[6]
- Ask about our seasonal sessions, like 2026 Holiday Family Portraits.[1]



Sources 1 JWP Studio LLC, Home: https://www.jwpstudio.net · 4 PPA, Experience is Everything: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/experience-is-everything · 6 PPA, Designing Fall Mini-Sessions: https://www.ppa.com/articles/designing-and-marketing-fall-mini-sessions-ideas-for-photographers · 16 PPA, Painterly Portraits: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/painterly-portraits-barbara-macferrins-new-take-on-the-old-masters

01 Going On Location

Oak trees, river views, and historic streets: the New Orleans area is one beautiful backdrop.



WE COME TO YOU

We travel for family and senior portrait sessions, and we love photographing our clients in new and exciting places. Call us for a custom location quote.[2]

Choose your setting

- **Garden & greenery:** moss-draped oaks and open lawns in City Park or Audubon Park.
- **Historic charm:** Jackson Square and the French Quarter, or the streets of old Gretna.
- **Riverfront:** levee walks, Algiers Point, and Crescent Park skyline views.
- **Meaningful places:** your home, church, or a family landmark. Tell us why it matters.
- Some parks and venues require a permit or fee for professional photography; we'll help you confirm before the session.

Timing & Louisiana weather

- Golden hour, roughly the last hour or two before sunset, gives soft, flattering light and cooler air.
- October through April is the most comfortable stretch; summer sessions work best very early or late.
- Set a backup rain date when you book, in case the weather doesn't cooperate.[6]
- Plan for the temperature and how long you'll be outside; a spot with indoor shelter nearby helps.[15]

Dress for the location

- Lighter neutral tones blend with outdoor scenery without disappearing into it.[6]
- Wear walkable shoes to the spot and change into your photo shoes when we arrive.
- Breathable fabrics keep everyone fresh in the humidity; bring blotting papers and a hand fan.

Your location go-bag

- Water, snacks, wipes, and a small towel or blanket for sitting poses.
- Bug spray (apply before dressing), sunscreen, a lint roller, and safety pins.
- Brush, comb, edge control, and lipstick or lip balm for quick touch-ups.
- Save the meeting-spot map we send ahead of time so there's no confusion on photo day.[4]



Sources 2 JWP Studio LLC, F.A.Q.: https://www.jwpstudio.net/faq · 4 PPA, Experience is Everything: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/experience-is-everything · 6 PPA, Designing Fall Mini-Sessions: https://www.ppa.com/articles/designing-and-marketing-fall-mini-sessions-ideas-for-photographers · 15 PPA, Planning Winter Mini Photo Sessions: https://www.ppa.com/articles/planning-winter-mini-photo-sessions

02 Graduate Sessions

High school seniors and college grads: you earned this moment. Let's make it legendary.



YEARBOOK GRAD SESSION AT A GLANCE

15 to 20 minute in-studio sessions at 1654 Stumpf Blvd. Graduates are photographed in the cap & gown plus a tux (young men) or black drape (young women), and **we supply the cap & gown, tux, and drape.**[1]

Plan your looks

- Bring **three or four looks** that feel like you, including your favorite everyday outfit.[7]
- Mix it up: one dressy, one casual, one that shows your passion (sport, band, art, or career).
- For the drape or tux, wear a strapless top or a crew-neck white T-shirt underneath.
- Bring your own cap & gown, stole, or cords only if you want them in extra images; we've got the basics covered.

Look your best

- Brows, nails, and hair done 1 to 3 days before; haircuts about a week ahead.
- Matte makeup photographs better than shimmer; bring powder to control shine.
- Remove or swap visible hair ties, smart watches, and lanyards before you step in front of the camera.

Props that tell your story

- Your graduation year numbers, school sign, or a "Class of" banner.
- Letterman jacket, team jersey, helmet, ball, uniform, or instrument.
- Diploma cover, college acceptance shirt or sweatshirt, stethoscope, or other future-career gear.
- Honor stoles, cords, and medals: bring them all and we'll mix and match.

Bring a parent

- We love a quick portrait of the graduate with mom or dad, so parents, come ready to jump in.[7]
- College grads: our College Grad Sessions are personalized and offered in-studio or in scenic locations.[1]
- Most of all, show up as you are. The best senior portraits feel real.



Sources 1 JWP Studio LLC, Home: https://www.jwpstudio.net · 7 PPA, Just As They Are: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/just-as-they-are

02 On Location

Your campus, your city, your story. Take the celebration outdoors.





Pick spots that mean something

- Ask yourself what you want each spot to say about you.[7]
- **Campus:** your school's sign, front steps, gym, field, or a favorite hallway.
- **City icons:** Jackson Square, the riverfront, historic church steps, or a college campus lakefront.
- **Your world:** the court, the stage, the job, or the neighborhood that shaped you.
- Confirm campus or venue permission before session day; some locations require it.

Outfit changes on the go

- Plan 2 to 3 locations or fewer; travel time eats into photo time.
- Bring a garment bag, a steamer if you have one, and a robe or cover-up for quick changes.
- Pack the cap & gown flat or hung; wrinkles on the gown are the hardest thing to fix.
- Heels or dress shoes for photos, sneakers for walking between spots.

Light, heat & timing

- Golden-hour sessions flatter skin tones and keep you cooler in the Louisiana heat.
- Have a rain date ready, just in case.[6]
- Midday sun is harsh; if that's your only option, we'll find open shade.

Senior kit checklist

- Water, powder, blotting sheets, deodorant, lip color, comb, and edge control.
- Safety pins, fashion tape, and a lint roller for last-second fixes.
- A friend or parent to hold bags, fix hair, and keep the energy up.
- We travel for senior sessions; call us for a custom quote.[2]

Sources 2 JWP Studio LLC, F.A.Q.: https://www.jwpstudio.net/faq · 6 PPA, Designing Fall Mini-Sessions: https://www.ppa.com/articles/designing-and-marketing-fall-mini-sessions-ideas-for-photographers · 7 PPA, Just As They Are: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/just-as-they-are

03 Birthday Sessions

Another year, another era, another milestone reached. Celebrate it like you mean it.



FOUR REASONS TO BOOK A BIRTHDAY SESSION[1]

1. **YOUR SPECIAL DAY** — *Unleash your inner model.*
2. **NEW BEGINNINGS** — *Start your new era in style.*
3. **DO IT FOR FUTURE YOU** — *Yes, you can be extra.*
4. **LIFE'S A PARTY** — *Make it a grand ordeal.*

Pick your theme

- Glam & elegant: gowns, sequins, crowns, sashes, and a statement chair.
- Color pop: balloons, confetti, and a palette pulled from your outfit.
- Milestone numbers: big 1, 16, 21, 30, 40, 50 and beyond in gold or silver.
- Share your Pinterest board or inspiration photos when you book so we can plan the set.

What to bring

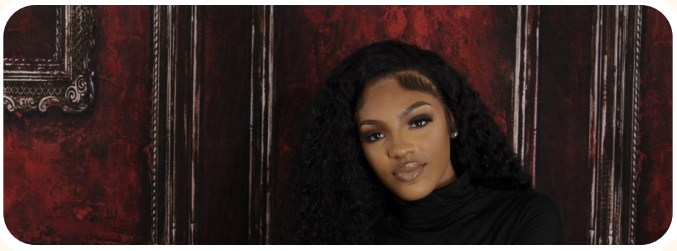
- Two outfits: one show-stopper and one fun or casual look.
- Props: tiara, sash, balloons (inflated and tied), champagne flutes or a sparkler-free cake topper.
- Your cake or cupcakes, if you'd like them in the shot. Confirm with us first for smash sessions.
- Hair and makeup done professionally for adult glam sessions.

First birthdays & cake smash

- The first birthday is a classic milestone portrait to complete baby's first year.[14] Cake smash sessions are a beloved favorite for toddlers.[12]
- Choose a cake with light-colored frosting and no dyes that stain; skip whole nuts and hard decorations.
- Schedule after a nap, bring a bath towel, wipes, and a full change of clothes.
- Do a cake test at home a few days before so the first taste isn't a surprise.

Kids' birthday tips

- Let your child help pick a favorite color, character, or hobby to theme the session.
- Practice a few silly faces and “big smiles” at home; it turns the camera into a game.



Sources 1 JWP Studio LLC, Home: https://www.jwpstudio.net · 12 PPA, Generations of Love: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/generations-of-love · 14 PPA, The Power of Connection: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/the-power-of-connection

04 Professional Headshots

Your first impression, delivered before you ever shake a hand. Make it count.



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Send us a few snapshots of yourself ahead of time. They help us learn what you like best about yourself and plan camera angles, lighting, styling, and even retouching before you walk in.[8]

Know where it will live

- LinkedIn, company website, speaker bio, real-estate signs, or casting? Tell us so we match the style.
- Corporate and conservative, approachable and warm, or creative and editorial: decide your vibe.
- Need a team set? We'll keep backgrounds and lighting consistent across every person.

Grooming checklist

- Men: shave or trim beards 1 day before; bring a razor for touch-ups and a lint roller.
- Women: natural, matte makeup slightly stronger than everyday; bring powder and lip color.
- A professional hair and makeup artist is always worth considering.[5]
- Wear glasses daily? Bring them. Anti-glare lenses help, and we'll angle lights to reduce reflections.

Wardrobe for headshots

- Solid, mid-tone colors such as navy, charcoal, jewel tones, or soft pastels frame the face best.
- Avoid tiny stripes, small checks, and big logos; they shimmer or distract on camera.
- Fit is everything. A well-tailored jacket or shirt makes you look modern and polished.[8]
- Bring 2 to 3 tops, including at least one jacket or layering piece; necklines matter most.

In front of the camera

- Don't worry about posing. We'll direct you step by step and build momentum slowly.[8]
- Practice a relaxed smile and a confident closed-mouth look in the mirror.
- Hydrate, get a good night's sleep, and skip salty food the night before to avoid puffiness.





Sources 5 PPA, Setting the Stage: Pre-Session Consultations: https://www.ppa.com/articles/setting-the-stage-how-pre-session-consultations-elevate-your-photography · 8 PPA, Manly Pursuits: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/manly-pursuits

05 For New Moms

From baby bump to first steps, the first year flies by. Here's how to capture every chapter.



THE BABY FIRST YEAR GROWTH PLAN

5 sessions, one price: **newborn, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, and 12 months**. Each session includes one 8x10 print, two 5x7 prints, and three digitals. Weekday appointments only.[1]

Maternity: the bump

- Schedule around **28 to 35 weeks** for one baby and by about **30 weeks** for multiples; you'll likely be more comfortable earlier.[1]
- Fitted gowns, flowing fabrics, or a partner's button-down shirt all highlight the bump.
- Include your partner and older siblings for a full "we're growing" story.

Newborn: book before baby arrives

- Reserve with your due date during pregnancy; we'll set the final date once baby is born.
- We aim for the first two weeks of life, when babies are sleepiest and curl into poses easily.
- Safety is the top priority. Newborns are delicate and should be handled with extreme care.[9]
- The goal is a sleepy, content baby; time for feeding and settling is built into the session.[12,18]

Newborn-day packing list

- Feed baby right before or on arrival; bring extra milk or formula and a pacifier.
- Diapers, wipes, burp cloths, and a change of clothes for you (spit-ups happen).
- Dress baby in a loose, front-opening outfit to avoid red marks on the skin.
- Optional: a family heirloom, a sibling's favorite toy, or your wedding rings for detail shots.

Let baby lead

- Babies are unpredictable: some sleep the whole time, others are fussy. Go in knowing the baby is in charge.[10]
- If baby doesn't like a pose, we stop and move on. Your baby should never overheat or be wrapped too tightly.[10]
- Mom, rest. Plan your outfit a week ahead so session day is simple.

Sources 1 JWP Studio LLC, Home: https://www.jwpstudio.net · 9 PPA, Newborn Photography Safety Tips: https://www.ppa.com/articles/newborn-photography-safety-tips · 10 PPA, Baby, That's Style: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/baby-thats-style · 12 PPA, Generations of Love: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/generations-of-love · 18 PPA, Unwrapping the Mystery: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/unwrapping-the-mystery

05 Best Ages to Photograph

Newborn to 18: the moments worth stopping time for, and what makes each age special.



Newborn — 5 TO 14 DAYS
Sleepy, curled, tiny details: fingers, toes, lashes.

3 months — HEAD CONTROL
First real smiles, coos, and tummy-time portraits.

6 months — THE "SITTER"
Sits with support, giggles, and starts grabbing toes.

9 months — ON THE MOVE
Crawling, pulling up, curious expressions. Milk bath sessions are a fun idea; a bath stays warm about 20 to 30 minutes.[13]

12 months — FIRST BIRTHDAY
First steps and the cake smash, a classic way to wrap up year one.[12,14]

18 mo to 2 yrs — BIG PERSONALITY
Walking, running, opinions, and belly laughs.

3 to 5 years — IMAGINATION
Costumes, dress-up, favorite toys, and storybook themes.

5 to 6 years — SCHOOL BEGINS
Kindergarten, first day of school, and gap-toothed grins.

9 to 12 years — THE TWEEN YEARS
We believe these years are every bit as worthy of celebration; a session can be an affirming experience.[11]

13 years — OFFICIAL TEEN
Style and identity shine. Parents love close-ups that show their face.[17]

16 years — SWEET SIXTEEN
Glam sessions, first car, and big birthday celebrations.

17 to 18 years — SENIOR / GRADUATE
Cap & gown, letterman jackets, and the "Class of" moment.

PLAN THE WHOLE JOURNEY

Our Baby First Year Growth Plan covers newborn, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months in one package.[1] Beyond year one, an annual portrait around each birthday creates a growth story you'll treasure. Ages shown are our recommendations; every child is different, so book when your child hits the milestone, not the calendar.

Sources 1 JWP Studio LLC, Home: https://www.jwpstudio.net · 11 PPA, Not So Awkward: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/not-so-awkward · 12 PPA, Generations of Love: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/generations-of-love · 13 PPA, 6 Tips for Milk Bath Portrait Sessions: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/6-tips-for-milk-bath-portrait-sessions · 14 PPA, The Power of Connection: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/the-power-of-connection · 17 PPA, Striking Gold in the Tween Market: https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/audrey-woulard-striking-gold-in-the-tween-market

PRINT IT · PIN IT · CHECK IT OFF

Your countdown Session Prep Checklist

2 TO 3 WEEKS BEFORE

- [ ] Book your session and pay the creation fee
- [ ] Schedule your consultation
- [ ] Share inspiration photos and your shot list
- [ ] Pick a location and a rain date
- [ ] Book hair, makeup, and barber

1 WEEK BEFORE

- [ ] Finalize and try on every outfit
- [ ] Gather props, numbers, jerseys, heirlooms
- [ ] Get haircuts and grooming done
- [ ] Line up a helper for kids or bags
- [ ] Confirm date, time, and meeting spot

THE DAY BEFORE

- [ ] Steam or press outfits; hang them up
- [ ] Nails and brows finished
- [ ] Pack your go-bag: water, snacks, touch-ups
- [ ] Charge your phone for directions
- [ ] Hydrate and get a full night's sleep

SESSION DAY

- [ ] Eat a good meal; feed babies and kids
- [ ] Arrive 10 to 15 minutes early
- [ ] Bring all outfits on hangers
- [ ] Remove hair ties, watches, and lanyards
- [ ] Relax, laugh, and have fun

JWP Studio

Ready to book? Let's create together.

1654 Stumpf Blvd., Gretna, Louisiana 70056
Call 504.393.0014 · Sessions Wednesday to Saturday
www.jwpstudio.net

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for promotions and session announcements.

Policies and session details from jwpstudio.net and jwpstudio.net/faq. Reference links are listed at the bottom of each page. © 2026 JWP Studio LLC. Details are subject to change; contact us to confirm current offerings.