

F.A.Q for Photography Sessions at Country Cove, 2023

Q: Do I need an appointment to shoot at Country Cove?

A-Yes, all photographers must have an appointment and all invoices must be paid to shoot sessions. We prepare for your visit with our setups and have the fields ready to photograph your clients. Also, we limit the number of people on the farm during photography season so there is plenty of room to roam and photograph without getting others in your frame.

Q-When does my time officially start and end?

A-Your (the photographer) time starts when you sign-in with one of our photography team members; that team member will record the time on the timesheet.

The end time is when you check out with the team member, also recorded. If the total time is 15 minutes or more different from the time you paid for, then the extra time will be invoiced via PayPal or at our register in the Christmas Shop.



Q-What if it rains (or rain is predicted) for my appointment?



A-We encourage that you book a rain date with us and with your client so that the date is on their calendar and reserved (so that you won't lose that client due to bad weather).

Please note that we, Country Cove, will call sessions off for rain; not the photographer or clients. You may contact us if rain is forecasted to get updates on the schedule.

Q-Are your set-ups available at all appointments?

A-Yes, set-ups will be available at all appointments, unless you are bringing your own props. Using ours and yours is **not** an option. If you choose to use Country Cove set-ups, we will have them placed and ready for you.

If you prefer to bring props of your own, make sure you have told Jan that you are bringing props so we can have the wagon ready to transport them for you. We will then help you pick the spot on the farm and take your props to that location.



Q-Can I drive my vehicle in the Christmas tree fields?

A-Only if it looks like this one! But, really, no. During photography sessions, children are everywhere, especially in the tree fields. It's simply not worth the risk.

Q-Is there a place for my clients to change clothes for their shoot?

A-Yes, although we don't have an indoor restroom, we do have portable restrooms that can be used to change clothes.

Q-What should I tell my clients to do upon arrival?

A-Have them park in the gravel parking lot and come to the tent to check in. They may NOT roam the tree field before or after their appointment with you. We have two options for them as they wait for their time with you:

1. Relax in our waiting area near the tent. You will come to the waiting area and pick your clients up and walk them to where you will begin shooting. When finished with those clients, walk them back to the waiting area to sign out at the tent, then pick up your next clients in the waiting area. We will not allow your clients to meet you in the tree field early as we are aware children may not want strangers “watching” their session.
2. Shop in our Christmas Shop during Christmas Photography Season! We plan to open on October 7, 2023!



Q-Why can't my clients use their cell phones, or bring their own camera, to take pictures with your set-ups while they wait?

A-Because they hired you, a professional, to take quality images and they are paying for those images. Their time with our set-ups is when you are photographing them. By using our vignettes for cell phone photos, they are using another photographer's time at those set-ups. We strictly enforce this rule, so please let your clients know that they may not come early or stay later to take pictures with their own camera (cell phone or camera).

Q-Are dogs allowed?



A-Yes, as long as they are leashed and picked-up after. (No one expects to get a “surprise” on their shoe from a field of Christmas trees!) And they can't sit on upholstered furniture. We appreciate your cooperation.

Q-Can I move your set-ups to make my own vignette?

A-No. But, you can plan a vignette using props we are not using in our current set-ups. See Jan to help you plan your own unique vignette.

Q-A photographer is over-using her time at a particular set-up. What do I do?



A-Remind her that Santa is checking his list! No, actually, please tell an employee what you have observed so we can monitor the situation and quickly get a resolution.

Q-Why can't we do sessions after November 12?



A-We give preference to photographers before we open for tree sales. That's usually about eight weeks for Christmas photography season. After we open for tree season, people will be roaming the tree fields looking for that perfect tree, and photographers would have a difficult time getting a shot without a stranger being in the frame. Also, our Christmas set-ups are placed around the areas where our tree processing area will be and in the tree fields. And our parking lots would not hold both types of customers, tree customers and photography clients. The two businesses do not mix.