

Photography Sessions

Guidelines for a Successful Session at Country Cove

(Updated 10-1-18)

Thank you for considering booking your session with Country Cove! We appreciate your business and look forward to working with you and your clients. For your sessions at Country Cove to run smoothly, please follow our guidelines. The rules might seem extensive, but unfortunately, experience has given us good cause for each guideline.

How to Book

- ✓ All sessions are by appointment only so that we can plan for your visit. Otherwise, Country Cove is a private, working farm that is not open to the public, except during Christmas tree selling season.
- ✓ Schedule enough time for your session.
 - Consider that **begin time** is when you plan to arrive at the farm (*not when your client sessions start*), and **end time** is when you plan to leave the farm (*not when your client sessions end*).
 - We give you a 15-minute grace period if your session runs over or if you check in early. After that we will have to charge for the extra session time on a pro-rated basis.
- ✓ Enjoy the use of our set-ups each season **OR** bring your own.
 - **Easter/Spring sessions** feature yellow daffodils and tulips, Easter and Spring banners, Easter eggs, and various seasonal décor.
 - **Summer-time** at Country Cove is full of blooms and feature two flower gardens: an English-style cottage garden (think Delphinium, Lamb's Ear and Yarrow) and a wildflower garden (think Bee Balm, Milkweed, Coreopsis and Baptisia).
 - **Christmas sessions** are the most popular of all as we feature our beautiful Christmas tree fields as the backdrop for your Holiday clients. We go all out with our family wagon from Illinois, our famous twinkle-lighted tree hallway and green velvet couch, plus many other memorable vignettes.
 - If you choose to bring your own props, let us know at booking. We will be prepared upon your arrival to help you load your items on our trailer and drive them to your shooting spot (we will show you around and help you choose—we have several out-of-the-hustle-and-bustle areas for you to choose from). After you are finished with your sessions, we will pick your props up and drive them to your vehicle.
- ✓ Book a rain date so your client will have that date on their calendar, too. **The rain date is only activated if rain is occurring on the farm at least one hour before**

your shoot time, not necessarily raining where you live. Appointments cannot be changed based on the forecast of rain unless it is changed 7 days prior to your scheduled date.

- ✓ During most sessions, there will be more than one photographer on the property. Please advise your clients that other photographers and their clients will be on the farm, too. Easter/Spring and Summer shoots will be kept to no more than two photographers at any given time. However, during Christmas photography season, we must book many more photographers during each hour so that we can accommodate the many requests we receive. We always end up not being able to book everyone that calls, but we do try to make time available during weekdays. For Christmas sessions, we do set aside a couple of days each week as "private" days where only one photographer and his/her clients are shooting during the scheduled session time.
- ✓ Appointments can be made by calling Jan at **615-848-8564** or emailing countrycovephotography@gmail.com. Don't hesitate to ask for a next-day appointment. We can usually accommodate short-notice sessions (except during Christmas shoots).

PROMO Sessions

- ✓ A PROMO session at Country Cove is a 30-minute appointment (for PROMO pricing, see section on Pricing and Payment) in which you bring a model and photograph with our set-ups (or your own). The images from your PROMO are expected to be used to promote your sessions at our farm.
- ✓ Posting the images along with your session date, pricing, and contact information can really boost the response rate. Families like to see just what they are getting, as well as helping them plan their wardrobe for the shoot.
- ✓ PROMO sessions are reserved only for professional photographers that book a session block at Country Cove. Only one PROMO session per season, please.
- ✓ PROMOs are only offered on specific dates early in each photography season.

Pricing & Payment

- ✓ Sessions are **\$50 per hour**.
- ✓ A 10% discount will be applied (\$45/hour) if you book 4 or more hours in one day.
- ✓ Session invoice and payment is through **PayPal**.
- ✓ A \$15/hour deposit is required when the session(s) are booked via a PayPal invoice.
- ✓ The balance is due one week before the appointment date; you will receive an invoice for the balance. If you book a week or less before your appointment, then 100% is due at booking.
- ✓ PROMO sessions are \$15 for a 30-minute session and can only be used one time per season per photographer. Any overage will be charged at the \$50/hour rate and prorated.

- ✓ No refunds are granted, so please book responsibly.

Session Guidelines

- ✓ You must check in when you arrive and check out before leaving. Check in/out can be done in the Christmas shop or by following the appropriate signs.
- ✓ Pets are welcome; they must be leashed and always picked up after.
- ✓ Please **don't park or drive** in the fields; everyone can park in the gravel parking lot.
- ✓ Please let your clients know that they may **NOT** use their cell phones to photograph at our setups before, during or after their session with you. That defeats the purpose of using a professional photographer!
- ✓ Please keep our farm clean by not using glitter, confetti, or any other substance on our trees or ground that can't be cleaned up completely; please pick up any trash or debris in your area.

Safety Considerations at Country Cove

- ✓ Farms are dangerous places. Please be aware of dips, holes, stumps, critters, insects, poison ivy, sticky plants, fallen limbs, tall grasses, wood piles, etc.
- ✓ We work on the farm year-round, especially on weekends. Tractors, mowers and other equipment might be in use. October and November are especially busy months while we get ready for our tree selling business. During that time, we will be setting up tents, moving equipment, cleaning, etc. Please stay outside of the boundaries of any yellow caution tape and be prepared for children to be intrigued by all that activity and equipment!
- ✓ Do **NOT** let anyone go barefooted. Farms are dangerous and should never be visited without shoes.
- ✓ Enjoy the beauty of our 35 acres! You are free to shoot just about anywhere on the farm, but please do not bother the house or the yard. We (Jan and Joe) do not live on the property, and the house is rented out. We ask that you please help us respect our neighbor's privacy.
- ✓ During our spring and summer flower garden sessions, please be aware that **bees will be everywhere!** Ask your clients if anyone coming to the shoot is allergic to bee stings, or any other insect; if so, said client must be prepared by bringing the appropriate antidote. We cannot give out antihistamines or EpiPen's.
- ✓ Portable restrooms are located near the west tall pine tree line. We do not have indoor plumbing.

Social Media and Other Contact Information

- ✓ Feel free to share your images on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/countrycovetrees
- ✓ Tag us on Instagram at www.instagram.com/countrycovetrees
- ✓ Email us at countrycovephotography@gmail.com
- ✓ Our website is www.countrycovetrees.com
- ✓ Call us at 615-848-8564