Allison's Custom Jewelry

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(937) 492-6937

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Celebrating
THE WEDDING OF

AND

ON

The Wedding Party

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Get a grip on your guest list

Cooperation is key for couples planning their weddings. Compiling the guest list is one area of wedding planning where couples oftentimes must embrace both cooperation and compromise. Putting together a wedding guest list can cause some tension. That tension may be confined to couples, but it may even occur between couples and their families. Getting a grip on their guest lists may be one of the more difficult tasks couples encounter when planning their weddings, but there are ways to make creating the guest list go smoothly.

• Recognize the need to compromise. Couples who recognize the need to compromise in advance of compiling their guest lists may find it easier to pare down that list if the initial number of guests is too high. Couples can create lists of people they want to invite, breaking these initial lists down into categories such as “friends,” “family,” “acquaintances,” and “coworkers.” Couples may not want to compromise on inviting friends and family, but each person should be willing to remove some coworkers and acquaintances from their final lists.

• Don’t succumb to parental pressure if mom and dad are not paying the bills. Couples who are financing their own weddings should not feel beholden to their parents’ wishes when compiling their wedding guest lists. Politely explain to parents you’re working on a budget and that you have a predetermined number of guests you’re capable of inviting. Couples can appease their parents by encouraging them to compile a list of people they hope to invite, and then telling them these people will be invited if other guests are unable to make it. Couples whose parents are footing some or all of the bill must be more receptive to their parents’ wishes than those paying for their own weddings.

• Agree on a kids policy. A policy regarding kids may help couples as they create their guest lists. Couples working with tight budgets may decide that the only children who will be invited are their nieces and nephews. Young cousins likely won’t feel slighted if they don’t make the cut, and their parents may even appreciate a night out without the kids in tow.
According to Zola, a free suite of wedding tools, summer has been upstaged by autumn as the most popular time of the year to tie the knot. For the first time, this year 40 percent of all weddings will take place during the months of September and October. Additionally, the site identified October 20, October 13 and September 29, each a Saturday, as the most popular wedding dates, respectively, of 2018.
Tying the knot can be an expensive endeavor. According to The Knot 2017 Real Weddings Study, which surveyed nearly 13,000 brides and grooms in the United States who got married in 2017, the average cost of a wedding was more than $33,000. That figure may surprise some couples planning their weddings, many of whom may not be able to afford spending so much on their ceremonies and receptions. Couples may feel pressure to compete with friends and relatives whose weddings they have attended in the past, and that may compel some to stretch their budgets and even go into debt to finance their nuptials. However, there are ways for couples to curtail their wedding spending and impress guests at the same time.

- Trim the guest list. The 2017 Real Weddings Study found that couples spent an average of $268 per guest in 2017. Many couples are recognizing that smaller guest lists are a great way to lower wedding spending, and The Knot study found that the average guest count decreased from 149 in 2009 to 136 in 2017. Trimming the guest list may seem harsh, but couples who work together need not cut their guest lists in half. By working together, couples can likely find between 10 and 15 acquaintances on their initial lists who won't be offended if they're not invited. Couples who spend the 2017 average per guest can save nearly $3,000 by removing just 10 people from their guest lists.

- Expand your venue horizons. A greater number of couples are looking beyond traditional wedding venues and opting for more unique locales to tie the knot. The 2017 Real Weddings Study found that 15 percent of 2017 weddings were held on farms, ranches and even in barns, while just 2 percent of weddings were hosted in such venues in 2009. The growing popularity of unique wedding venues may make some locations more expensive than couples anticipate, but a willingness to tie the knot in a unique venue greatly increases couples’ options, improving the chances they will find more affordable venues.

- Cut back on guest entertainment. Customizing experiences for guests is a major reason why today’s couples are spending so much more per guest than their predecessors. Spending for customized guest entertainment, which includes things like photo booths, sparklers and video booths, tripled between 2009 and 2017. Couples may want to give their guests unique experiences, but should not stretch their budgets or go into debt to do so.

- Tie the knot in winter. Summer and fall were the most popular wedding seasons in 2017, and that does not figure to change anytime soon. Couples can take advantage of those trends by getting married in winter, a slow season for wedding venues and vendors, who might be more flexible with their prices.
Affordable bachelor and bachelorette party ideas

Weddings can be expensive. Various sources estimate the average cost of weddings is anywhere from $26,000 to $31,000. Couples and their parents may bear the brunt of wedding expenses, but those who have accepted a role in the wedding party also can expect their share of expenses. Taking into account gifts, wardrobes, makeup, bridal showers, and travel, including getting to and from the bachelor/bachelorette party, bridal party members are on the hook for a lot of money when their friends or family members tie the knot. Many men and women like to travel for their bachelor/bachelorette parties, and cost-conscious bridal party members may be concerned about how expensive such parties can be. Pulling out all the stops can be exciting, but there’s no guarantee these types of parties will be more enjoyable than simpler soirées. Taking steps to control costs can help cost-conscious couples and their friends. The following are some affordable ideas that can be fun for all involved.

• **BAR OR WINERY CRAWL:** Partygoers typically want to enjoy a night out on the town, and traveling from one establishment to another can be a fun way to do just that. Everyone invited can set themselves apart with a signature item (hat, T-shirt, or colored clothing), and make the rounds.

• **ATTEND A GROUP EVENT:** Group events include sporting events, concerts, theater shows, or a night at a comedy club. Investigate discounted tickets for large groups.

• **BELT OUT THE TUNES:** Open mic nights at restaurants, bars and other establishments around town may make for a fun way for friends to share a few laughs together. Participants need not be professional singers to join in on the festivities.

• **CAMP OUT:** Get in touch with nature by enjoying a camping trip, complete with a campfire and a few brews. Spending time in the wilderness can restore focus and let stress melt away.

• **POKER OR GAME NIGHT:** Groups can gather around the poker table to test their skills in poker and other card games. With some free-flowing beverages and snacks galore, games can get pretty animated.

• **DINNER PARTY:** Hire a chef to visit your house and prepare a meal for guests. Serve a signature cocktail and let the conversation flow.

Bachelor and bachelorette parties can be affordable without sacrificing fun. Many men and women like to travel for their bachelor/bachelorette parties, and cost-conscious bridal party members may be concerned about how expensive such parties can be.
The Ceremony

**DECIDE ON A WEDDING THEME AND STYLE**

My Wedding Date & Time: ________________________
My Theme: ________________________
My Style/Colors: ________________________

**RESERVE THE CEREMONY SITE**

Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________
Contact: ________________________
Find out if there are any restrictions on decorations, music, flowers, etc.
Restrictions: ________________________
Pay deposits and sign agreement ________________________

**BOOKS OFFICIANT AND BUDGET FEE**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________
Fee: ________________________

**BOOK WEDDING COORDINATOR**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

**BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

**SUPPLY LIST**

- Guest register table
- Canopy
- Gift tables
- Chairs
- Aisle candelabra
- Kneeling bench
- Alter candelabra
- Coat/hat rack
- Candle lighters
- Lighting
- Candles
- Microphone
- Flower stands
- Audio equipment
- Aisle stanchions
- Tents
- Alter
- Fans/Heaters
- Arch
- Rice/bubbles/bird seed
- flower petals to toss

**BOOK FLORIST**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

**BOOK TRANSPORTATION**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

**BOOK MUSICIANS**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

**OTHER SERVICE**

Name: ________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: ________________________
Engagement Announcement for the newspaper

**ENGAGEMENTS** This is the first announcement for the paper. It includes the names of the bride-elect and groom-elect, city of residence, parents’ names, time, date and place of wedding, names of grandparents, education and honors. The announcement of the engagement should be submitted no more than six months and no less than two weeks before the wedding date. A photograph can be submitted.

**COUPLES ANNOUNCEMENT** This appears the Friday before the wedding. It includes basic reminder information of the weekend wedding and includes listings of parties given in honor of the bride and groom. This information should include the type of party, hosts, locations and dates.

**WEDDINGS** This is submitted after the wedding. Information should include the names of the couple, parents and grandparents; time, date and location of wedding; officiating minister’s name; who gave the bride away; bride’s attendants and bridesmaids; flower girls and ring bearer; best man and groomsmen; location of the reception; honeymoon location; and the city where the couple will be living. A photograph can be submitted.

*Contact your local newspaper to see what their announcement requirements are. Following are three traditional types of announcements and what to include in each.*

Use this as a guide for what to include in your engagement announcement:

- Full name of bride-elect
- Complete address & phone
- Full names of bride's parents
- Full names of bride-elect's grandparents
- Bride-elect’s education information
- Bride-elect’s employment (job title & location)
- Full name of groom-elect
- Address & phone of groom-elect
- Full names of groom's parents
- Full names of groom's grandparents
- Groom's education information
- Groom’s employment (job title & location)
- Date, place and time of wedding (please be specific)
Before the Wedding

Twelve to six months before

• Tell all family members
• Talk to children, if this is a second/third marriage
• Select a wedding date and time
• Make a preliminary budget
• Determine your wedding theme or style and colors
• Plan your ceremony
• Determine who will officiate the ceremony
• Hire a wedding consultant if you plan to use one
• Reserve your ceremony and reception location
• Determine the size of your guest list
• Start compiling names and addresses of guests
• Select bridal attendants
• Have fiancé select his attendants
• Plan reception
• Check catering facilities, if at a club or hotel
• Select a caterer, if one is necessary
• Select a professional photographer and videographer
• Select a musical service for reception and wedding
• Select a professional florist
• Select your dress and headpiece
• Announce your engagement in the newspaper.
• Select bridesmaids’ dresses
• Select the men's wedding attire and reserve the right sizes
• Select the engagement ring with fiancé if he has not already done so

Six to two months before

Six months before the wedding

• Shop for wedding rings and other symbols of family unity
• Make final arrangements for ceremony (deposits paid, contracts signed)
• Make sure all bridal attire is ordered
• Have all mothers coordinate and select their dresses
• Register for bridal registry
• Complete the guest lists and compile them in order
• Check the requirements for a marriage license
• Start planning the honeymoon
• Decide where you will live after the wedding

Two months before the wedding

• Address the invitations and announcements, which should be mailed four to six weeks before the wedding
• Order wedding cake, if not supplied by caterer
• Finalize ceremony details with officiant
• Make rehearsal arrangements
• Plan bridesmaids’ luncheon
• Make appointments for hair, nails, and make-up
• Arrange accommodations for out of town attendants, guests and family members
• Finalize honeymoon plans
• Make sure final musical arrangements are made for wedding and reception
Weddings dot the social calendars of millions of people across the globe. The Association for Wedding Professionals International says every year an average of 2.4 million weddings are performed in the United States and approximately 150,000 per year are performed in Canada. Evenings are the most common time of the day to host a wedding, but that does not mean a daytime wedding cannot be a beautiful event and make for a party to remember.

Couples are increasingly customizing their weddings to be a reflection of their personal styles. One of the ways couples are customizing their festivities is by moving the wedding to various hours of the day that meet the couple’s needs. A wedding that takes place in the late morning or afternoon may be the perfect fit for some couples. Here’s how to navigate the specifics of a daytime wedding.

• Secure accommodations. An early wedding means guests may have to travel from afar the evening before to be able to attend the festivities. Daytime weddings can be complemented by working with a hotel or bed and breakfast to ensure guests will have a place to stay and get ready to arrive at the early wedding in time.

• Don’t be afraid to negotiate prices. The wedding resource Bridal Guide says that vendors are typically more amenable to price discounts or offering greater value for daytime weddings. That’s because demand for their services is reduced during the day. Similarly, venues may have more availability during the day than at night, and, as a result, they’re more flexible on prices, especially since brunch foods generally cost less than dinner entrees.

• Hire the right photographer. Be sure to contract with a photographer who is a pro at handling photos in daylight and natural light. While many photographers are skilled in any light, many are used to shooting in churches and venues with low lighting. Be sure to see picture samples taken during the daytime to gauge a photographer’s daytime experience and skill level.

• Employ color to add dimension. During evening weddings, lighting or candles help set the mood. Those same elements will be ineffective in daylight. Choose bright colors for your decor and flowers to brighten up spaces.

• Choose alternative entertainment. Chances are guests are not going to feel as comfortable dancing during daylight hours. Consider other entertainment, such as lawn games, karaoke, or a comedian. A guitarist or pianist may be a nice musical touch.

• Plan food accordingly. Just because the wedding is early does not mean the food should be. Guests still will need to eat. If you are only opting for light appetizers and cocktails, be sure to mention this on the invitation so guests can plan ahead and won’t go hungry.
Countdown to Wedding Day

One month before

One month before the wedding
• Have a final fitting for your wedding gown and your bridesmaids’ gowns.
• Have a formal bridal portrait done.
• Complete all physical and dental appointments.
• Confirm details of photographer & videographer.
• Get a marriage license.
• Make transportation arrangements for the wedding day.
• Purchase gifts for the attendants.
• Purchase gifts for fiance if gifts are exchanged.
• Have the bridesmaids luncheon.
• Purchase going-away outfit.
• Keep a careful record of all gifts received to help with thank you notes.
• Make sure to have all accessories-toasting goblets, ring pillow, garter, candles etc.
• Select a responsible person to handle guest book and determine its location.

Two weeks before the wedding
• Attend to business and legal details; get the necessary forms to change names on.
• Social Security card, driver’s license, insurance and medical plans, bank accounts, make a will.
• Prepare wedding announcements to be sent to the newspaper.
• Reconfirm accommodations for out-of-town guest.
• Arrange to have possessions and gifts delivered to your new home if moving.
• Finish addressing announcements to be mailed on the wedding day.

One week before the wedding
• Contact guests and family who have not responded.
• Give final count to caterer and review details.
• Go over final details with all professional services you have engaged.
• Give photographer family information and a list of pictures you want.
• Plan toast for reception to include family members, children, etc.
• Give the videographer a list of shots you would like included in the video.
• Plan the seating arrangements.
• Plan line-up for the receiving line.
• Arrange for someone to assist with last minute errands and to help you dress on wedding day.
• Have a practice session with the hairdresser and make-up artist.
• Pack a suitcase for your honeymoon.
• Make sure you have a valid marriage license.
• Make sure all wedding attire is picked up and fits properly.
• Have a rehearsal with all participants, reviewing their duties.

On your wedding day

Be sure to eat something—you have a big day ahead and many brides have been known to faint. Fix hair or have an appointment to have it done at least 3 – 4 hours before the ceremony. Make sure nails are done, allow plenty of time for make-up and make sure you have all your accessories. Start dressing one to one and-a-half hours before the ceremony. If pictures are being taken, have yourself and your attendants ready two hours before the ceremony. Have the music start 30 minutes before the ceremony. Five minutes before the ceremony starts, have the groom’s parents seated. Immediately before the procession, the bride’s mother is seated and the aisle runner is rolled out.
If you are planning on writing your own vows, discuss this with the officiant. Arrange for the officiant to be paid in private after the ceremony. Invite the officiant and a guest to the reception.

Officiant Information
Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone number: ____________________
Religious denomination: ____________________
Dates available: ____________________
Fee: ____________________
Available for date desired? Yes No
Estimated total cost: ____________________
Cancellation policy: ____________________
Arrival time: ____________________
Wedding date: ____________________
Wedding location: ____________________
Wedding time: ____________________

Rehearsal date: ____________________
Rehearsal time: ____________________
Rehearsal location: ____________________
Special classes required? Yes No
Date of classes (if required): ____________________
Time of classes (if required): ____________________
Class fee: ____________________
Class location: ____________________

☐ Book officiant six months in advance
☐ Confirm fees
☐ Make sure officiant is available to attend rehearsal dinner before scheduling it.
☐ Discuss your music plans with the officiant making sure that there are no restrictions.

WEDDING SUITS and TUXEDOS
FREE Groom’s Suit or Tuxedo Rental!
with 5 additional full rentals
Barclay’s
DOWNTOWN PIQUA
Men’s—Women’s Clothiers
314-318 North Main Street
Downtown Piqua
937-773-5928
barclaysdowntownpiqua.com
Find a caterer

Caterer
Address
Phone
Establish menu
My menu
Final guest count
Establish guideline
Buffet or served dinner
Time food will be set out/served
Time food will be taken away
Number of bartenders and servers
☐ Confirm list of equipment provided by caterer
If self-catered
Meat
Vegetables
Fruits

Order the wedding cake

Breads, Rolls, Crackers
Cheese, Dips, Dairy
Condiments
Desserts
Beverages

Select bakery
Make arrangements for pick-up or delivery
Decide where cake table will be located
Purchase a cake topper
Decide time of cake cutting ceremony

If you are saving the top cake layer, make arrangements to have it taken home and preserved. Confirm all major details of your cake order one month in advance.
Brides and grooms may pour over every detail of their weddings, but few components of the festivities may be as fun, especially for foodies, as deciding what the wedding cake will look like. Couples who want to deliver show-stopping visuals often express some measure of their creativity and personalities through statement wedding cakes.

Many couples now eschew the classic three-tiered white cake in favor of a dessert that garners instant attention. Whether the cake is brightly colored or hand-painted, a towering architectural marvel or shimmering in metallics, couples are opting to make a statement with their confections. Apart from clever cake-toppers, here are ways to stand apart when dessert is served.

- According to the Perfect Wedding Guide, a rising trend in cakes is to cover a white or naked cake with translucent glaze tinted in the couple's wedding colors. This artistic expression can be especially stunning in boho-chic weddings.

- Statement tiers also are popular. The cake may be traditional in nearly every way, but couples then set the cake apart by featuring an elaborate design or a different hue in one tier.

- Martha Stewart Weddings advises that more than just color can be used to make a statement. Lifelike sugar flowers can really set cakes apart. Guests may not be sure if they can consume all aspects of some cakes. But delicate sugar flowers taste as good as they look.

- Hand-painted tiles on a cake are another way to add panache. A bride and groom may be inspired by a European vacation or the stained-glass effects of religious windows and want to add that feel to the tiers of the cake.

- Sometimes a statement comes by way of texture. Even an all-white cake can be dressed up with interesting textural effects. Ruffles, lace, embossing, and 3-D rosettes are different textural components that can be incorporated in cake designs.

- Couples also may want to tell their unique stories with cake. Individual tiers designed to reflect various milestone moments from the couple's relationship can be quite engaging.

- Capitalizing on the trend of edgier weddings, couples may opt for darker hues on their cakes — even a black tier — or nontraditional geometric shapes to the cake itself or its design elements.

Statement cakes can really say something about the couple getting married. Much like other wedding elements, cakes provide a window into the minds of happy couples.
Invitations

COMPILE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF GUESTS
- Bride’s guest list
- Groom’s guest list
- Bride’s parents’ guest list
- Groom’s parents’ guest list

ORDERING INVITATIONS
Stationer: __________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Contact: ____________________________

COST FOR EACH:
- Invitations _________________________
- Envelopes __________________________
- Liners ______________________________
- Response cards ______________________
- Envelopes __________________________
- Reception cards _____________________
- Pew cards __________________________

- Design and print maps to be included in the invitations if needed.
- Address and assemble the invitations.
- Ensure you are using the proper postage when stamping the envelopes.
- Finalize the guest list and determine number of invitations needed
- Double-check spellings of names and addresses
- Order the invitations and stationery at least four to six months before the wedding

Announcements __________________________
Wedding programs _______________________ 
Place cards ______________________________
Thank you notes _________________________
Other ______________________________________

INVITATIONS
- Number ordered _______________________
- Date ordered __________________________
- Delivery date __________________________
- Style/font ____________________________
- Paper/color ____________________________
- Ink color ______________________________

- Mail the invitations, ask the post office to hand-cancel.
- Mail the announcements.
- Write thank-you notes.
- Mail thank-you notes.
Weddings are very special occasions for two people who are in love. That's why many couples want close family and friends nearby when they tie the knot. But even the happiest couples may express some nervousness about one particular part of traditional wedding ceremonies.

Wedding vows are a way for couples to profess their love for each other. However, many couples who want to write their own vows are hesitant to say them aloud in front of an audience. If couples are intimidated by a heartfelt recital of their vows in front of a crowd, then exchanging vows in private may be for them.

Wedding planners and industry experts say that private vows have become very popular. While the vows do not replace the public exchange that seals the marriage from a legal standpoint, they can be words shared in a private moment before the actual ceremony itself. A quiet moment alone allows couples to shed private tears and share a special moment before they make haste for the altar.

The Knot, a premier wedding planning resource, notes that there are many reasons to share private vows.

• You do not like being in the spotlight or become shy in front of crowds.

• There are words you would like to share with your future spouse that are deeply private, and you don't want to express those feelings to every person at the wedding.

• You do not want to censor your thoughts or words.

• You desire an intimately private and personal moment together before all of the fanfare and rush of the wedding.

• You'd like to recite loving words in a native language that some guests may not understand.

• You desire the potential for some very great candid photos if you invite the photographer to be there at a distance.

• You want to create a lasting memory that is only yours as a couple to share.

The popularity of private vows exchanged before a wedding ceremony is growing. This growing trend provides yet another way for couples to personalize their weddings. If couples are intimidated by a heartfelt recital of their vows in front of a crowd, then exchanging vows in private may be for them.
SET A PHOTOGRAPHY BUDGET
Estimated cost __________________________
Compile a list of photographers to meet
with & set appointments
1. ______________________________________
2. ______________________________________
3. ______________________________________
4. ______________________________________

Questions to ask
1. Can you view previous work?
2. How much experience in weddings?
3. What does the price include?
4. Can you call a bride they have previously photographed?

SELECT A PHOTOGRAPHER
Photographer _____________________________
Address __________________________________
Phone _____________________________________

☐ Pay deposit and sign agreement on

SCHEDULE SITTINGS FOR ENGAGEMENT
AND BRIDAL PORTRAITS
Engagement appointment ___________________
Bridal appointment ________________________

Decide which photos are needed. Use photo checklist
provided to let photographer know which pictures you want.
Confirm all details two weeks before the wedding.

AFTER THE WEDDING
View proofs ______________________________
Place final order ___________________________
A bridal portrait may be taken before the wedding day or after the
ceremony. If you are interested in a truly formal portrait take the time
to visit the portrait studio in advance. This will eliminate having to
do it before the ceremony when you are already nervous. This will
also cut down on the time taken for those photographs after the
ceremony.

THINGS TO CONSIDER
Assign someone to work with the photographer to let him or
her know who “Grandma” is.
Do you want black & white photos, color photos
or a combination?
Would you like portraits of the following to
• Possibly use as an art piece?
• Black and white is always a great choice for these:
• Bouquet
• Candles on a table
• Your bridal shoes
• Rings

TRADITIONAL FORMAL
PHOTOS – CHECKLIST
☐ Bride and Groom
☐ Bride and Mother
☐ Bride and Father
☐ Bride with Parents
☐ Bride with Groom’s Parents
☐ Groom with Mother
☐ Groom with Father
☐ Groom with Parents
☐ Groom with Bride’s Parents
☐ Bride with Bridesmaids
☐ Groom with Groomsmen
☐ Entire wedding party
☐ Bride, Groom with Grandparents,
  Godparents and other Relatives
  Candid Shots - Checklist
☐ Bride and Attendants
☐ Bride and Father
☐ Attendants coming down the aisle
☐ Bride’s Mother coming down the aisle
☐ Groom’s Parents coming down the aisle
☐ The “giving away” of the Bride
☐ Wedding Party at the altar
☐ Exchange of vows
☐ The kiss
☐ Bride and Groom recessing
☐ Bride and Groom arriving at the reception
☐ Bride and Groom’s first dance
☐ Bride dancing with her Father
☐ Groom dancing with his Mother
☐ Cutting the cake and feeding it to each other
☐ Tossing the garter
☐ Tossing the bouquet
☐ Bride and Groom leaving the reception
☐ The “getaway” car

Announcements ____________________________
Wedding programs _________________________
Place cards _______________________________
Thank you notes ___________________________
Other _________________________________

Invitations
Number ordered ______________________________
Date ordered ________________________________
Delivery date _______________________________
Style/font _________________________________
Paper/color ________________________________
Ink color ________________________________
5 great reasons to take engagement photos

During their engagements, couples will make many decisions in regard to their weddings. Wedding planning can sometimes seem like a runaway train of appointments, schedules and deadlines. As a result, some couples do not take the time to enjoy being engaged, which is a special and unique time in their lives.

Engagement photo shoots can be a unique way for couples to commemorate and enjoy the months preceding their weddings. Engagement photos memorialize the engagement and provide many additional benefits as well.

1. Engagement photo shoots give couples a chance to connect with their photographers. Booking an engagement photo shoot provides helpful information to both the couple and the photographer. The photographer gets to see how the couple interacts in front of the lens and can determine any insecurities or strengths and weaknesses couples may have. These lessons can be filed away and help make wedding day photos look better. Similarly, spending time with the photographer gives the couple an opportunity to develop a rapport with their photographer. If couples and their photographer don’t click, scheduling an engagement shoot well in advance of the wedding gives couples a chance to find someone else to take their photos.

2. An engagement photo shoot gives couples time to spend together. An engagement photo shoot is an ideal time to spend an afternoon in a special location focusing on each other without wedding planning taking up your time.

3. Photo shoots provide a chance to get comfortable in front of the camera. Professional photographs taken before the wedding enables couples to view how they will appear in pictures. Seeing these photos might help couples grow more comfortable in front of the camera. This practice can help couples temper their anxieties prior to the wedding. An engagement shoot also can be a great time for couples to speak with their photographers about angles or styles they prefer or dislike.

4. The bride and groom have save-the-date or social media photos. Engagement photographs can be used for save-the-date cards or social media postings (check with the photographer for licensing agreements). This can be a great way to spread excitement about the upcoming nuptials.

5. Photo shoots provide a chance to experiment with vivid backdrops. Engagement photography gives couples plenty of opportunities to experiment with different locales, which may not be possible come the wedding day.

Engagement photography can be a worthwhile inclusion in pre-wedding celebrations.

Engagement photo shoots can be a unique way for couples to commemorate and enjoy the months preceding their weddings. Engagement photos memorialize the engagement and provide many additional benefits as well.
Choosing a Site

DECIDE ON A LOCATION
Location address: ________________
Location phone: ________________
Type of location: ________________
Deposit required: ________________
Cancellation policy: ________________
Restrictions: ________________
Size description: ________________
Site rental fee: ________________
Clergy fee: ________________
Parking: ________________
Handicap Accessible: Yes No

GUEST
Number of guests invited: ______
Number of guests confirmed: ______

DRESSING ROOMS
Available: Yes No
Number Available: ________________
Capacity: ________________

DRESSING LOCATION
Bride: ________________
Maid/Matron of Honor: ________________
Bridesmaids: ________________
Flower girl: ________________
Groom: ________________
Best Man: ________________
Groomsmen: ________________
Ushers: ________________
Ring Bearer: ________________

THEME | REHEARSAL TIMES & DATE
My Theme: ________________
My style/colors: ________________
Date reserved: ________________
1st rehearsal time: ________________
1st rehearsal date: ________________
2nd rehearsal time: ________________
2nd rehearsal date: ________________
Final rehearsal time: ________________
Final rehearsal date: ________________

Set up time: ________________
Start time: ________________
End time: ________________
Photo time: ________________
Clean up time: ________________
### CEREMONY MUSIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decide on music budget:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total cost:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation policy? Yes No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment provided? Yes No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide on type of music:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure there are no ceremony music restrictions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay Deposits:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Agreements:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make musical selections for prelude:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make musical selections for processional:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make musical selections for ceremony:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make musical selections for recessional:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm major ceremony details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give copy of music to officiant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site rental fee:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECEPTION MUSIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decide on music budget:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total cost:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation policy:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide on type of music:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setup location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of music:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of entertainment:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music restrictions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time needed to set up:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music start time:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setup location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of breaks needed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded music interludes during breaks? Yes No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desired attire for musicians:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of musicians:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments needed? Yes No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flowers

HIRE A PROFESSIONAL FLORIST
Florist ____________________________
Address __________________________
Phone ____________________________
Contact __________________________
☐ Pay deposit and sign agreement
☐ Decide the types of flowers
☐ Fresh flowers
☐ Dried flowers
☐ Silk flowers

SELECT FLOWERS FOR:
☐ Bride’s bouquet
☐ Bouquet for tossing
☐ Floral headpiece if needed
☐ Going away corsage
☐ Matron/Maid of Honor’s flowers
☐ Floral headpiece if needed
☐ Bridesmaids’ Flowers
☐ Floral headpiece if needed
☐ Flower girl
☐ Floral headpiece if needed
☐ Groom’s boutonnière
☐ Best Man’s boutonnière
☐ Groomsmen’s boutonnières
☐ Ring Bearer’s boutonnière
☐ Mothers’ corsages
☐ Fathers’ boutonnières
☐ Flowers for helpers

FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR CEREMONY SITE
☐ Arch/canopy
☐ Altar
☐ Candelabras
☐ Pews
☐ Aisles
☐ Windows

FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR RECEPTION SITE
☐ Bride and groom’s table
☐ Attendants’ table
☐ Parents’ table
☐ Guest tables
☐ Buffet table
☐ Cake table
☐ Guest register table
☐ Gift table
☐ Champagne/punch table
☐ Wedding Cake
☐ Wedding Cake topper

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Flowers may look beautiful in gardens and even when snipped and brought inside to brighten up a mantel or dining table. Unfortunately, cut flowers have a finite shelf life. While cut blooms can't live forever, certain varieties will outlast others. Choosing flowers wisely for wedding centerpieces or keepsakes can help couples enjoy selected flowers longer.

- **PEONIES**: Peonies can last for about a week or two when brought indoors. HGTV says to snip the stems when the buds are tight, wrap them in newspaper and store them in the refrigerator until you're ready to arrange.

- **ZINNIAS**: These bright blooms can last for three to four weeks and are best harvested in summer. Related to the sunflower, zinnias are available in a wide range of colors.

- **CHRYSANTHEMUMS**: Widely referred to as "mums," these midsummer to late-fall flowers can last between three and four weeks after being cut. Mums can be used to fill out floral displays because they tend to be inexpensive but durable flowers.

- **CONEFLOWER**: The purple coneflower is popular, but coneflowers are available in many colors aside from purple. Coneflowers attract butterflies and are beautiful in cut displays.

- **RANUNCULUS**: Ranunculus mimic the look of roses and display layer after layer of silky, crepe-like petals. These blooms can last a week or more in vases if they're put in water right after being cut.

- **CARNATIONS**: Another budget-friendly flower, carnations are popular from early spring until late summer. Available in many hues, they can be used in conjunction with other blooms to create well-rounded floral displays that may last between two and three weeks.

- **LILIES**: Lilies are traditional flowers that are beautiful to behold. Lilies are available in various sizes and colors and can be bought fresh year-round. Lilies often last longer than a week after being cut. Look for lilies with tight buds, as such flowers tend to last the longest.

- **GLADIOLI**: The lovely flowers of the vertical-growing gladiolus, which is sometimes referred to as the "sword lily," are available in yellow, peach, pink, white, and other hues. These bulb-based plants can last up to two weeks after being cut and add variety and texture to floral displays.

Although advice varies on how to keep cut flowers fresh the longest, veteran florist Nic Faitos, senior partner at Starbright Floral Design in New York, who has provided his floral expertise for Reader's Digest, says the best approach is to keep vase water clean. In addition, ProFlowers suggests keeping cut blooms in a cool room away from direct sunlight and heat.

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The revitalized Fort Piqua Plaza Conference & Banquet Center has become the heart of downtown Piqua. The exquisite architectural beauty has won numerous awards and hosts many prestigious events. The facility offers six unique rooms providing the perfect venue for groups of 24 to 350 people with state-of-the-art amenities. Rent the Plaza or just a room. The Fort Piqua Plaza is the perfect choice for receptions, showers, conventions, corporate meetings, retreats, parties and banquets. Let us help you plan your dream wedding.

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PROMS • CORPORATE MEETINGS • RETREATS