A special supplement to
The Lima News
Bridal Package Includes:
• Private tasting for four guests
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• Cake cutting service
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Sharing your news

A guide to submitting wedding and engagement announcements to The Lima News

Engagements
Engagement announcements are published on Sundays in the Lifestyle section.
There is a charge to include a photo. A listing without a photo is free. You may also visit www.limaohio.com, with details available under Lifestyle/Submit Engagement.

Weddings
Wedding announcements are available in several different sizes and formats in the Sunday Lifestyle section.
An announcement listing the bride and groom’s names, their parents and select information about the wedding is free. The free announcement does not include a photo. Announcements with photos may be purchased. Visit www.limaohio.com, with details available under Lifestyle/Submit Wedding.
• For details on how to submit these announcements, call Customer Service at 419-993-2222 or 866-546-2237 or visit the office at 3515 Elida Road. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.
A wedding timeline

9 Months Before Your Wedding
- Choose your wedding date, reserving the site. Clear the date and time with your clergy. Speak with family and/or children.
- Set your budget. Talk with your fiance about the style of the wedding and costs involved. Discuss things in great detail with anyone who is helping out financially.
- Compile the guest list. Let out-of-town guests know the date of the wedding so they can make travel plans, or send a save-the-date card to everyone.
- Reserve the reception site.
- Interview and book caterer. Be sure to get a written contract.
- Get help from friends, family or a bridal consultant if you feel you can’t do all the coordinating yourself.
- Order your dress and veil. Choose accessories.
- Help your fiance decide on a suit or tuxedo style.
- Announce your engagement in the newspapers.
- Discuss your theme with your fiance and decide on types of food, decorations, table settings, entertainment, etc.
- Interview musicians, florists, photographers, videographers and bakers. Get estimates from each. Keep track of your discussions in a notebook.
- Choose your florist.
- Decide on your color scheme.
- Shop for wedding rings with your fiance.
- Make travel plans for your honeymoon.
- Order wedding invitations and buy thank-you cards.

6 Months Before Your Wedding
- Choose your musicians.
- Book your photographer and videographer.
- Meet with your baker and choose the style and flavors of the cake.
- Choose your florist.
- Decide on your color scheme.
- Shop for wedding rings with your fiance.
- Make travel plans for your honeymoon.
- Order wedding invitations and buy thank-you cards.

4 Months Before Your Wedding
- Start your registries, keeping in mind what stores are convenient for your guests.
- Help both mothers shop for dresses.
- Choose music for the ceremony and reception.
- Work with your clergy on vows and Scripture readings. Meet with your clergy for counseling, if necessary.
- Book a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests and let them know the block is available. Remember to ask for discounts.
- Have a get-to-know-each-other event for your maids.
- Book your transportation — limo, etc., for the wedding party.
- Make appointments for dress fittings.
- Call the courthouse to understand marriage license requirements.
- Check in with service providers to make sure things are going as planned.

3 Months Before Your Wedding
- Make maps for the invitations, making sure they are correct. For out-of-town guests, consider putting together information on what to do in the area.
- Start putting invitations together and addressing them. Select a stamp. Invitations should go in the mail six to eight weeks before the event.
- Check in with the caterer and give a close estimate of the number of guests.
- Doublecheck honeymoon plans.
- Call bridesmaids and make sure they have their dresses and alterations are scheduled.
- Buy gifts for your maids, and help your fiance buy gifts for his groomsmen.
- Schedule a meeting with the photographer for formal portraits before the wedding, if desired.

2 Months Before Your Wedding
- Mail invitations and announcements.
- Have wedding portraits taken, if desired.
- Send portrait to newspapers for wedding announcement, if photos are taken in advance.
- Finalize the music selections for the ceremony. Meet with reception musicians to discuss exactly what will and will not be played. Don’t be shy in this area. Compile a list and give it to the DJ.
- Plan your rehearsal dinner and a brunch for out-of-town guests the next morning, if desired.
- Buy shoes, jewelry, etc., to go with your dress.
- Make appointments for hair, nails and makeup.
- Check your passport, if your honeymoon will take you out of the country.
- Gather birth certificates or other documents needed for the marriage license.
1 Month Before Your Wedding
- Get your marriage license.
- Have the final fitting of your gown and make sure your attendants are ready.
- Check with caterer on final guest count and menu selections.
- Send thank-you cards as gifts arrive from people who will not be attending.
- Finalize your seating chart and placecards, if necessary.
- Confirm delivery times with florist.
- Confirm transportation plans.
- Meet with your photographer to discuss what photos you want taken at the ceremony, portraits before or after, and at the reception.
- Doublecheck video plans with the videographer.

2 Weeks Before Your Wedding
- Pick up wedding rings.
- Begin packing for your honeymoon.

1 Week Before Your Wedding
- Make final checks with all your vendors: venue manager, officiant, musicians, florist, photographer, videographer, driver, caterer, baker.
- Arrange for gifts brought to the reception to be brought to your home.
- Have gifts for attendants ready for rehearsal dinner.
- Check on honeymoon plans.
- Write checks for vendors to give to them at the agreed-upon time.
- Make sure out-of-town guests have hotel reservations and are clear on how to get to the ceremony.

The Day Before Your Wedding
- Attend rehearsal.
- Attend rehearsal dinner.
- Put finishing touches on decorations at reception site.
- Get to bed early.

The Big Day
- Eat a light meal.
- Schedule in plenty of time for hair, makeup and dressing.
- If you’re having photos before the ceremony, allow plenty of time. Make sure attendants know what time they should be ready for these photos.
- Put a smile on your face and enjoy.
Responsibilities: 
— a guide —

Maid/matron of honor
- Plans and coordinates bridal shower
- Assists the bride in planning
- Records gifts received at showers
- Helps with shopping
- Helps coordinate the bridesmaids’ fittings
- Attends rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Helps bride get ready before the ceremony
- Arranges the bride’s train and veil during the ceremony
- Holds the bride’s bouquet during the ceremony
- Hands the officiant the groom’s wedding ring
- Gives a toast at the reception

Bridesmaids
- Expected to pay for their own dresses and shoes
- Help bride with planning
- Co-host the bridal showers with the maid of honor
- Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner

Best man
- Plans the bachelor party
- Pays for his tuxedo
- Helps coordinate the groomsmen’s tuxedo fittings
- Attends the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Gets to the groom to the ceremony on time
- Hands the officiant the bride’s wedding ring
- Gives a toast at the reception
- Decorates getaway car
- Returns the groom’s tux to the rental shop

Groomsmen
- Pay for their tuxes
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Help with set-up and getaway car
- Escort the maids
- Clean up after the ceremony
- Oversee transfer of gifts to a secure location after the reception

Ushers
- Pay for their tuxes
- Attend the rehearsal and the rehearsal dinner
- Help with set-up
- Seat guests
- Unroll the aisle runner
- Clean up after the ceremony

Flower girl
- Pays for her dress
- Attends rehearsal and rehearsal dinner with her parents
- Carries a basket of flowers
- Walks before the bride in the processional
- Stands next to the honor attendant during the ceremony and follows the bride and groom during the recessional

Ring bearer
- Pays for his tuxedo
- Attends rehearsal and rehearsal dinner with his parents
- Carries a pillow with rings tied to it
- Walks down the aisle with or after the flower girl

Other jobs
- People to help pin corsages
- People to help during ceremony: Scripture readings, soloists
- People to hand out programs at ceremony and invite guests to sign guest book
- People in charge of watching gift table and putting gifts in safe place

Photography worksheet

Photography
Photographer:
__________________________________________________________
Contact info:
__________________________________________________________
Engagement appointment:
__________________________________________________________
Bridal appointment:
__________________________________________________________
Balance due on:
__________________________________________________________
Photos will be ready by:
__________________________________________________________

- Pay deposit and sign agreement.
- Discuss the copyright. Some photographers will sign a release and some will not.
- Schedule sittings for engagement and bridal portraits.
- Decide which poses/portraits with whom are needed.
- Confirm all details two weeks before wedding.

Videography
- Set a videography budget.
- Select a videographer.
  Videographer:
  __________________________________________________________
Contact info:
__________________________________________________________
Balance due on:
__________________________________________________________

- Pay deposit and sign agreement.
- Find out how many cameras will be used.
- Find out how many hours are included.
- Inform the videographer of rehearsal time.
- Advise the videographer of any venue restrictions.
- Confirm all details two weeks before the wedding.
Because fashion preferences were once ornate and dependent on precise fits, ready-to-wear clothing really did not become widely available until the early 20th century. Such attire is now available in just about any retail store.

Because ready-to-wear clothing is so readily available, the average person may be unfamiliar with custom-made or tailored items. In fact, a couples’ wedding may be the only instance in their lives when they require the services of a seamstress or tailor.

Fittings are a part of wedding planning, and here’s how brides-to-be can navigate the process of finding and being fitted for a dress.

• Try on sample gowns. The first step is to make your rounds to various gown shops and try on the samples they have available. Most sample sizes will not be the size you wear every day, so expect them to be ill-fitting. Do not be discouraged. Once a gown is chosen, the dress shop will take your measurements and order the gown according to the manufacturer’s sizing guide. Again, this can be shocking, since the size will likely be larger than what you wear in street clothes. Some shops will also order a little larger to allow for adequate tailoring.

• Schedule the first fitting. The first fitting should be anywhere from eight to 12 weeks before the wedding date, according to experts at WeddingWire, an online wedding information provider. This is the time it takes to complete most standard alterations. Complex customizations can take even longer. Brides should also budget for alterations, which may or may not be included in the price of the dress.

• Bring shoes and undergarments. Remember to bring along the exact shoes and undergarments you will wear with your gown. A change in shoes or bra/corset can result in the alterations fitting poorly the next time. Bring these items along to all subsequent fittings.

• Speak up. Martha Stewart Weddings suggests speaking up at fittings if anything is uncomfortable or needs tweaking. Seamstresses are masters at their crafts, but only if they understand the desires of the bride.

• Check the details. The second fitting is designed to check that all issues from the first fitting have been addressed, the gown is comfortable and you can move freely. At the last fitting, ask the maid of honor to come along so that she understands how to bustle or help you handle complicated straps or closures.
Weddings are memorable for a host of reasons. While couples remember their weddings because they mark the day they officially tied the knot, guests may remember weddings for other reasons, including the food served at the reception.

Some wedding venues are known for their stunning landscapes, while others build their reputations on unique interiors that provide unforgettable ambiance. But regardless of where weddings take place, guests are liable to discuss the food served at the reception.

• Don’t zero in on specialties. According to The Knot 2017 Real Weddings Study, a survey of nearly 13,000 brides and grooms who tied the knot in 2017, the average wedding hosted 136 guests. While couples might be tempted by specialty dishes when choosing their wedding menus, couples who are hosting dozens, if not hundreds, of guests should keep things simple.

• Consider potential allergies. In regard to entrees, make sure guests with food allergies can choose something that won’t make them sick. According to Food Allergy Research & Education, an organization devoted to improving the quality of life of individuals with food allergies, some common foods cause the majority of allergic reactions. Peanuts, soy, sesame and shellfish are among the most common food allergies. FARE also notes that allergies to wheat, milk and eggs are common in children. While such foods can still be served at wedding receptions, make sure to also include foods that are unlikely to trigger allergic reactions. Couples can even ask guests to inform them of any food allergies.

• Don’t hesitate to offer a favorite food. A couple who has a favorite food that’s symbolic of their relationship should not hesitate to offer it during the cocktail hour. For example, a couple who met in Thailand may want to offer a favorite Thai dish.

• Offer an elaborate dessert. The last bite guests will take is dessert, so couples who want their guests to go home raving about the food may want to offer something special after the entrees have been taken away. Some guests may not indulge, but those who do might end their nights thinking about the delicious dessert they enjoyed as the festivities drew to a close. If the dessert is especially unique, offer something more traditional alongside it for more hesitant guests.

Choosing a wedding menu should be fun. Menus should reflect not only couples’ tastes but also include some popular foods so no one goes home hungry.

Tips for choosing a wedding reception menu
Located right off I-75, this romantic reception space offers the perfect atmosphere for newlyweds to dance and dine with their guests. The Howard Johnson Lima features a magnificent grand ballroom with seating for up to 300 guests.

Our expert team can customize your menu to include everything from simple salads, hors d’oeuvres to fine dining.

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- **Weddings**
- **Rehearsal Dinners**
- **Holiday Parties**

Howard Johnson Lima
1920 Roschman Avenue, Lima, OH
419-222-0004  www.hojolima.com
Registering for gifts:  
—a guide—

| Store(s):  | Hostess set | Microwave cookware | Guest towels |
| Website/password: | Iced tea spoons | Mixer | Hamper |
| Fine china | Salad/dessert forks | Mixing bowls | Hand towels |
| Brand/pattern: | Soup spoons | Muffin bowls | Shower curtain |
| Number of placesettings requested: | Sugar spoons | Oven mitts | Soap dish |
| | Steak knives | Picnic basket | Toothbrush holder |
| Glassware | | Pie pan | Washcloths |
| Brand/style: | Beer mugs | Pizza pan | Wastebasket |
| | Champagne | Roaster/rack | |
| | Cocktail | Salad bowl set | |
| | Iced tea | Slow cooker | |
| | Tumblers | Spice rack | |
| | Wine | Steamer | |
| Cookware | | Stock pot | |
| Brand/style: | | Storage containers | |
| | | Tea kettle | |
| | | Toaster | |
| | | Waffle iron | |
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When Lila Chess and Aron Kandel were planning their January 2018 wedding, the New York City couple was wary of acquiring too much stuff. They lived in a small apartment with limited storage. Lila opted not to have a shower in order to keep gifts at a minimum. But the couple knew that friends and family would want to celebrate their nuptials with presents. They found a registry that included traditional gift options but also things other than stuff—donations to charity and to their honeymoon adventures in Fiji and New Zealand. “People were really excited about the chance to help with our honeymoon,” recalled Lila Chess Kandel. “Friends and family who know us said, ‘That’s awesome. You guys are super-adventurous. We want to support that.’”

As couples strive to infuse their weddings with personal touches, changing up the registry is a natural, said Ashlie Lynch, communications chair for the American Association of Certified Wedding Planners. Many brides and grooms are forgoing formal dinnerware and household goods and replacing them with asks for money to fund experiences or significant purchases.

Couples are becoming increasingly comfortable asking guests for money, added Lauren Kay, deputy editor at TheKnot.com, a wedding planning website.

Between 2011 and 2017, the number of couples who had cash registries increased from 1 percent to 6 percent, according to a survey by TheKnot.com. In many cases, couples provide detailed explanations on the registry of how they intend to spend the money. Requests range from down payments on a house to in vitro fertilization treatments. That information “makes guests feel better about handing over cash,” Kay said. “It’s reframing the way we think about gifts.”

It also suits the lifestyle of millennials—those born between 1981 and 1997. Three out of four millennials said they prefer spending money on experiences over things, according to a 2017 Eventbrite survey.

Some resorts that cater to honeymooners offer registries. At the Fairmont Orchid in Hawaii, couples can request that friends and relatives chip in toward spa treatments, romantic dinners and sunrise canoe outings. “We’ve seen many couples who’ve exercised this option with success and have enjoyed their once-in-a-lifetime dream honeymoons as a result,” said resort spokeswoman Catherine Cambra.

Kayleigh and Daniel Caskey, who were married in 2017, had no problem asking guests to contribute to their honeymoon.

“It was a way of saying, ‘Hey you were part of our wedding day and now you’re a part of a time when we’re celebrating our marriage together that you can follow on Facebook,’” Kayleigh said. Many traditional gifts “will break or wear down and have to be replaced. We’ll never have a honeymoon again. We will always remember those experiences.”

Most of their friends and relatives understood, she said, but a few still bought traditional gifts that the couple isn’t sure they will ever use.

Before their 2016 wedding, Brady and Erica Robertson had a talk with one relative to ensure she did not “surprise” them with china they would
never use. “When friends and family visit, we are more likely to order pizza and eat off paper plates than to provide an elaborate meal,” said Erica, of Columbus, Ohio. “We didn’t want a lot of extraneous gifts because we didn’t have a lot of room to store everything.”

Charity wedding registries more than tripled in popularity last year, Kay said, from 3 percent of couples in 2016 to 10 percent in 2017.

Initially, Sarah Mulvaney and Matthew Schimenti intended to tell wedding guests they did not wish to receive any gifts for their June 2018 event, but relatives persuaded them to provide an option. The couple from Rowayton, Connecticut, decided to use their happy occasion to help a favorite charity. Using The Good Beginning, a registry for couples seeking charitable donations in lieu of gifts, the Schimentis solicited donations for The Carver Foundation of Norwalk, Connecticut, which provides youth programming.

“To us, our wedding was always about celebrating our love and the coming together of everyone we both love,” she said. “We have all that we need, and giving back was the least we could do.”

It makes sense that millennials would redefine traditional wedding registries, said Karen McGrath, co-author of “The Millennial Mindset: Unraveling Fact from Fiction” and a professor at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York. Millennials tend to prioritize giving back, taking care of the environment, and doing things rather than owning them, she said. Everything about fancy china and crystal — from storing it to the packaging it comes in — would be a turn-off for many young couples, she said.

Many millennials also choose to live in smaller or shared spaces, and move often, she said, which makes it difficult to have a lot of stuff.

“It’s a completely different mindset,” she said. “They’re much more mobile.”

And even newlyweds who want fine things for their homes may already have them, added Beth Helmstetter, a wedding planner who in 2016 founded The Good Beginning. With couples marrying later in life and often sharing a home before exchanging vows, they often have all they need, she said.
Details: reception

**Reception Site**
- Booked on: ________________________________
- Deposit paid: ______________________________
- Balance due: ______________________________
- Address: __________________________________
- Phone: ____________________________________
- Contact: __________________________________

*Restrictions on decorations?*
*Any decorations available from site?*
*If a hall, do you have to use its caterer/DJ/bar service?*
*Tables/chairs/linens supplied?*
*How many people can be seated at each table?*
*How many tables needed?*
*Does the hall have pre-determined layouts of tables to choose from?*
*Who sets up the tables?*
*Does the hall provide servers for the meal?*
*When can you get in to decorate?*
*Who does clean up?*

**Not Supplied/Will Need To Acquire**
- Guest register table
- Gift table
- Cake table
- Place card table
- Buffet tables
- Guest tables
- Chairs
- Plates (china or plastic)
- Flatware (silver or plastic)
- Napkins (cloth or paper)
- Tablecloths (cloth or plastic)
- Serving bowls/dishes
- Utensils
- Trays
- Bubbles/birdseed
- Audio equipment
- Microphone
- Lighting
- Mirror ball
- Dance floor
- Stage
- Portable dance floor
- Coat rack
- Arch
- Tents (stakes/setup included?)
- Trash cans (liners?)
- Portable toilets

**Rental Companies**
- Address: ____________________________________
- Phone: ______________________________________
- Contact: _____________________________________

*What goods ordered?*
*When goods will be delivered?*
*Delivery fee?*
*Will goods be set up?*
*Pick-up date: ________________________________
*Balance due: __________________________________
Details: flowers

To Do
- Hire a professional florist
  Florist:_________________
  _______________________
  Address:_________________
  _______________________
  Phone/email:_____________
  _______________________
  Contact:_______________
  _______________________
- Pay deposit and sign agreements
- Make arrangements to have bridal bouquet preserved.
- Recruit someone to be responsible for delivering flowers to the appropriate people (bride, groom, groomsmen, bridesmaids, flower girl, etc.)

Decide On Types Of Flowers You Want:
- Fresh flowers
- Dried flowers
- Silk flowers

Select Flowers For:
- Bride bouquet
- Bouquet for tossing
- Matron/maid of honor flowers
- Maids
- Flower girl basket
- Groom boutonniere
- Best man boutonniere
- Groomsmen boutonnieres
- Usher boutonnieres
- Ring bearer boutonniere
- Mothers’ corsages
- Fathers’ boutonnieres
- Flowers for helpers
- Ceremony flowers
- Arch/canopy
- Altar
- Candelabras
- Pews
- Aisles
- Windows

Reception
- Head table
- Parents’ tables
- Guests’ tables
- Buffet table
- Cake table
- Guest register table
- Gift table
- Champagne/punch table

Cake
- Cake flowers
- Wedding cake topper

Celebrate your Big Day With us!
- Seating capacity of 325
- Chairs and Tables included
- Catering available from Post 96 or use your own caterer

Call for Pricing and Date Availability!
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711 S. Shore Dr., Lima, OH
419-225-5641 • www.post96.com

The Island Dress Shoppe
“Lovely Mother of the Bride or Groom Dresses”
Personal Service to assist you in finding your perfect dress
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- Jewelry
- Special Orders *sizes 4-30*
- Sale Dresses up to 50% off
- Custom Alterations

132 W Spring Street, St. Marys
419-394-5116
M,W 9:30 – 8, T, TH, F 9:30 to 5, Sat. 9:30 to 3
Find us on Facebook

*sizes 4-30*
Clothes
Bridal dress/veil/accessories: ______________________

Groom’s suit: ______________________
Maids’ dresses: ______________________
Groomsmens’ suits: ______________________

Beauty
Hair: ______________________
Make-up: ______________________
Nails: ______________________
Tanning: ______________________
Fitness/diet aids: ______________________

Rings
Bride: ______________________
Groom: ______________________

Flowers
Bouquet: ______________________
Groom’s boutonniere: ______________________
Maids: ______________________
Groomsmen: ______________________
Flowergirl: ______________________
Guests of honor: ______________________
Nosegay to toss: ______________________
Ceremony decorations: ______________________
Reception decorations: ______________________

The Ceremony
Site: ______________________
Officiant fee: ______________________
Extra/tech/janitor fees: ______________________
Decorations: ______________________
Musicians: ______________________

The Reception
Site: ______________________
Number of guests: ______________________
Cake: ______________________
Musicians: ______________________

Linens: ______________________
Tents: ______________________
Rental items: ______________________
Alcohol: ______________________
Table settings: ______________________
Centerpieces: ______________________
Wait/bar staff: ______________________
Dance floor: ______________________
Tables/chairs: ______________________
Coat racks: ______________________
Favors: ______________________

Photos
Professional photos: ______________________
Videographer: ______________________

Stationery
Invitations: ______________________
Thank-you cards: ______________________
Guest book: ______________________
Programs: ______________________
Save the dates: ______________________

Attendants’ Gifts
Maids: ______________________
Groomsmen: ______________________

Honeymoon
Airfare: ______________________
Hotel: ______________________

Misc. Expenses
Total: ______________________
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Venues worksheet

Site: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone/e-mail: __________________________________________
Deposit: __________________________________________
Balance due: __________________________________________
Date reservation made: __________________________________________
Cancellation policy: __________________________________________
Site rental fee: __________________________________________
Clergy fee: __________________________________________
Restrictions on decorations?
Decorations available at site for use?
Do church members get a discount?
Extra fees for use of technology/janitor air conditioning?
Will the pastor use a microphone?
Flash restrictions on photography?

Rehearsal Time/Date __________________________________________
Does this work for clergy/musician?

Day Of Wedding
When to arrive __________________________________________
Time of ceremony __________________________________________
Length of ceremony __________________________________________
Can decorations be set up in advance?
When must clean-up be done?
Where is the dressing room and what facilities are available?
Is there a separate dressing room for the men?

Is parking readily available?
Is site handicapped accessible?
Will all your guests be seated comfortably?
If a church, must that church’s pastor perform the ceremony?
Officiant worksheet

Name:________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________________________________________________
Contact info:________________________________________________________________________________________
Religious denomination:____________________________________________________________________________
Fee:________________________________________________________________________________________________
Arrival time:_________________________________________________________________________________________
Wedding date:_______________________________________________________________________________________
Wedding location:___________________________________________________________________________________
Wedding time:_______________________________________________________________________________________
Rehearsal date:_____________________________________________________________________________________
Rehearsal time:_____________________________________________________________________________________
Rehearsal location:_________________________________________________________________________________
Special classes required?
Time/date of classes:_______________________________________________________________________________
Class location:_____________________________________________________________________________________
Class fee:___________________________________________________________________________________________

• Discuss photography, music, videography and vows. There may be restrictions.
• Pay the officiant in private after the rehearsal.
• Invite the officiant and a guest to the reception.
Secrets to at-home weddings

Many couples preparing for their trip down the aisle follow the familiar sentiments expressed by Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz.” Such couples feel “there’s no place like home” when hosting a wedding ceremony or reception.

There are many benefits to hosting a wedding at home. Homes often hold couples’ most cherished memories, and hosting a backyard celebration or an intimate indoor ceremony at your own home or the abode of a loved one can be a cost-effective way to have a good time.

Here are some tips to help couples navigate hosting an at-home wedding.

Assess the space
The average home is not equipped to handle hundreds of guests, wait staff, caterers and parked cars. Concessions in regard to comfort and safety will have to be made when drawing up the guest list. The wedding resource The Knot advises the general rule is six- to 10 square-feet of floor space per guest for row seating. You’ll probably need even more space for buffet tables, seating and a dance floor.

You will likely need to temporarily move furniture to comfortably fit everyone indoors — or rent a large enough tent for a backyard wedding.

Hire a cleaning service
It’s important to present a clean, inviting space when hosting a wedding at home. A cleaning service will conduct a thorough cleaning before and after the festivities, freeing up your time for last-minute tasks or to embark on your honeymoon.

Book an officiant early
Confirm with an officiant that they can oversee the wedding proceedings at your home. Some religious officials are not able to perform ceremonies outside of a place of worship.

Learn if it’s legal
Certain municipalities may require permits for parking on street, noise past a certain hour, closing of streets and much more. Do your research. You may need to coordinate parking at a nearby lot (like a school closed on the weekend) and shuttle people to your home.

Consult with an insurance carrier
Inquire if having such a large party at home is covered by your homeowner’s insurance policy, particularly if your home is damaged or someone gets injured during the festivities. Supplemental liability insurance or an umbrella policy may offer greater protection.
Hair styling tips

A wedding is a tough time to experience a bad hair day. Clothing styles, time of day and weather all can dictate a wedding hairstyle, but ultimately one of the most important factors in a wedding hairstyle is finding a stylist who understands you and can exercise your vision.

A patient, understanding stylist who is open to viewing different photographs and drawing inspiration from various places, as well as running through a few trial styles, can help brides (and grooms) look their best. In fact, trials are a must to ensure that a chosen style will work with your hair texture.

If you plan to get your hair colored, professionals recommend doing so about three weeks in advance of the big day so it looks natural and any potential snafus can be remedied beforehand.

Your stylist may suggest a light trim prior to the wedding so that the ends are fresh and healthy.

And since you’re putting your faith in a qualified stylist, trust their expertise and vision. Keep an open mind to their suggestions. You may fall in love with one of the options you hadn’t considered.

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