

Bridal



March 2021

A Special Section by the

Grant, Iowa, Lafayette
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Guide

Wedding
Day
Timeline

*Easy ways to
trim wedding
costs*

Your Wedding
Budget
Worksheet



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2021
Bridal Guide

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Wedding Photo Shot List

Pre-Ceremony Bride Photos

- With bridesmaids
- Dress, shoes, headpiece, jewelry, and bouquet
- Pinning a boutonniere on her dad
- Putting a corsage on her mom
- In her dress
- Her maid of honor
- Her bridesmaids and the flower girl

Ceremony Photos

- Interior and exterior shots of the venue
- Wedding Party
- Entering the venue
- Walking down the aisle
- Person doing the readings
- Groom
- With his best man at the altar
- Reaction to seeing the bride
- Bride
- With dad walking down the aisle
- Bride's mom walking down the aisle
- Groom's mom & dad walking down the aisle
- Bride's & groom's grandparents walking down the aisle
- Bride's dad giving her away
- Couple
- During the vow exchange
- Newlyweds exchanging a kiss
- Moment right after the kiss
- Walking up the aisle as newlyweds

Pre-Ceremony Groom Photos

- His family
- The best man
- Groomsmen, ushers, and ring bearer

Pre-Reception Photos

- The Couple with:
- The entire wedding party
 - Bride's family
 - Groom's family
 - Bride's grandparents
 - Groom's grandparents
 - Any special friends/extended family

Reception

- Interior and exterior shots of the venue
- Place settings
- Bride & groom making their entrance
- Cake table
- First dance
- Bride dancing with her dad
- Groom dancing with his mom
- Guests dancing
- Best man's toast
- Other toasts
- Cake cutting
- Bride throwing her bouquet
- Groom removing the bride's garter
- Garter toss

- **Bridal Gown Alterations**
- **Bridesmaids and Mothers, Prom and Special Occasion Alterations**
- **Ready to Wear Clothing**

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Did You Know?

Should a person hear that a couple “tied the knot,” it’s immediately known that they got married. But just when and where does the term “tying the knot” come from? The phrase “tying the knot” is steeped in tradition, though the origins of the phrase remain open for debate. One origin story states that tying the knot can be traced back to the Roman empire, when brides wore girdles that were tied in knots, and the groom had to eventually untie those knots to consummate the marriage. Tying the knot also may be traced to the custom of handfasting. The marriage contract was established between a bride and a groom by joining their hands together and tying them. Although accounts vary as to whether the hands were tied only during the ceremony or later, this is believed to be an ancient Renaissance or Celtic tradition. Others speculate that the phrase traces its origins to Hindu weddings in which brides and grooms tied a necklace of flowers as part of wedding tradition. Yet another theory suggests that the phrase can be traced back to the knotted string that supported beds prior to the use of metal springs. Therefore, in order to make a marriage bed, couples first needed to tie the knot. Knots

also represent a difficult-to-break bond, which is why they have long been associated with marriage. In one unity tradition, couples may braid or knot together three strands, with one representing the bride, one symbolizing the groom and the third representing God as they join together in faith. Similarly, the phrase “getting hitched” is associated with knot-tying as well. The saying implies that two people are being tied together just like a horse is tied, or hitched, to a wagon.

www.metrocreativeconnection.com



*Bride and Groom: Brandon and Nicole Naeger
Ann Gorgen Photography*

GRANT, IOWA, LAFAYETTE SHOPPING NEWS

Wedding Day Timeline

Time

WAKE UP! IT'S YOUR WEDDING DAY!	_____
BREAKFAST (MAKE SURE TO EAT WELL)	_____
HAIR & MAKEUP	_____
GET DRESSED	_____
PHOTOGRAPHER TO ARRIVE.....	_____
PICTURES OF BRIDE GETTING READY	_____
PICTURES OF GROOM GETTING READY	_____
COLLECT CORSAGES & BOUTONNIERES	_____
FLOWERS DELIVERED TO VENUES	_____
GROOM & GROOMSMEN ARRIVE AT CEREMONY	_____
GREET GUESTS AND USHER TO SEATS.....	_____
BRIDE & BRIDESMAIDS ARRIVE AT CEREMONY	_____
CEREMONY STARTS	_____
CEREMONY ENDS.....	_____
FAMILY PHOTOS.....	_____
WEDDING PARTY PHOTOS.....	_____
COCKTAIL HOUR	_____
GUESTS ALL SEATED	_____
GRAND ENTRANCE.....	_____
DINNER STARTS.....	_____
CUTTING THE CAKE.....	_____
SPEECHES	_____
FIRST DANCE	_____
FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE	_____
MOTHER/SON DANCE	_____
GARTER/BOUQUET TOSS.....	_____
FINAL DANCE.....	_____
BRIDE & GROOM LEAVE RECEPTION.....	_____



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Easy ways to trim wedding costs

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Many couples look for ways to cut wedding costs, and couples facing that very dilemma should know that there are several ways to save money but still host the wedding of their dreams.

Guest list can consume a significant portion of couples' wedding budgets. When compiling the guest list, couples should keep in mind that guests will need save-the-date cards, invitations, catered meals (including cocktail hour, dinner and dessert), drinks, and gifts (including hotel gift bags and wedding favors). So the cost per guest will be more than just the per person cost of the meal couples negotiate with their caterer. Couples who can pare their guests lists down to just family and close friends can save a substantial amount of money without affecting their ceremonies.

Reception A couple's wedding reception also will chew up a lot of their wedding budgets. But there are ways to reduce the costs of receptions, too. Couples planning on having a morning wedding can shift their receptions from the evening to the afternoon, when the cost per meal will be considerably less. Afternoon receptions also can be alcohol-free, saving couples even more money. If a nighttime reception is a must-have, choose a limited cash bar instead of an open bar. Limited cash bars often provide guests with free beer and house wine while guests who prefer liquor or mixed drinks must pay for their own libations. If you are planning an outdoor wedding reception, you may even be able to provide your own alcohol, which can save considerable amounts of money.

Couples also can trim reception costs by choosing the least expensive meal package. Packages often differ greatly in price but are not always so different with regard to their menus. If you find the packages offered by your venue are similar, choose the least expensive option.

Arrangements Floral arrangements are a big and potentially expensive part of many couples' weddings. The



*Bride and Groom: Allen and Chloe Richardson
Shelly Holmes Portraiture*

bride needs her bouquet, as do her bridesmaids. In addition, many couples decorate their ceremony space with flowers, and of course reception table centerpieces typically include flowers as well. When working with your florist, request in-season flowers, which will cost considerably less than exotic flowers that are out of season. In addition, let your florist know your budget and ask that he or she recommend flowers that won't break the bank.

Gifts While it's become customary to prepare gift bags for guests staying in hotels, couples should not go overboard with such gifts. Gift bags need not include more than a snack, a bottle of water and a homemade thank-you card. Couples also should not break the bank with regard to reception gifts, which have also become a standard offering. Keep such gifts simple and inexpensive, even opting for homemade gifts if you and your future spouse are skilled with crafts.

Your Wedding B

SUGGESTED PERCENTAGES	BUDGETED AMOUNT	VENDOR ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT
Reception (50 percent)			
Venue and rentals			
Food and service			
Beverages			
Cake			
Miscellaneous fees			
Attire (10 percent)			
Gown and alterations			
Headpiece and veil			
Bridal accessories			
Hair and makeup			
Groom's tux or suit			
Groom's accessories			
Miscellaneous fees			
Flowers and Decorations (10 percent)			
Floral arrangements for ceremony			
Flower girl's buds and basket			
Ring pillow			
Bride's bouquet			
Bridesmaids' bouquets			
Boutonnieres			
Corsages			
Reception decorations			
Lighting			
Miscellaneous fees			
Music (10 percent)			
Ceremony musicians			
Cocktail-hour musicians			
Reception band, deejay, or entertainment			
Sound-system or dance-floor rental			
Miscellaneous fees			



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Budget Worksheet

SUGGESTED PERCENTAGES	BUDGETED AMOUNT	VENDOR ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT
Photographs and Video (10 percent)			
Photography			
Videography			
Additional prints and albums			
Miscellaneous fees			
Favors and Gifts (3 percent)			
Welcome gifts for out-of-town guests			
Wedding party gifts			
Miscellaneous fees			
Ceremony (2 percent)			
Site fee			
Officiant fee or church donation			
Miscellaneous fees			
Stationery (2 percent)			
Save-the-date cards			
Invitations and RSVPs			
Programs			
Seating and place cards			
Menu cards			
Thank-you notes			
Postage			
Miscellaneous fees			
Wedding Rings (2 percent)			
Bride's ring			
Groom's ring			
Transportation (1 percent)			
Limousine or car rental for bride and groom			
Limousine or car rental for bridal party			
Transportation for out-of-town guests			
Valet parking			
Miscellaneous fees			

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Wedding Day Music List

GUEST ARRIVAL/ PRE-CEREMONY _____

WEDDING PARTY PROCESSIONAL _____

BRIDE PROCESSIONAL _____

CANDLE/WINE/SAND/ROSE CEREMONY _____

RECESSIONAL _____

FIRST DANCE _____

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE _____

MOTHER/SON DANCE _____

WEDDING PARTY DANCE _____

CAKE CUTTING _____

BOUQUET TOSS _____

GARTER TOSS _____

MONEY DANCE _____

LAST DANCE/DEPARTURE SONG _____

SPECIFIC REQUESTS _____

DO NOT PLAY _____

ALLOW REQUESTS BY GUESTS? YES NO

*Bride and Groom: Melissa and Trevor Jacobson
Sawyer Creek Photography*



Unconventional wedding menu ideas

www.metrocreativeconnection.com

Traditionally, one of the more memorable aspects of wedding receptions is the food. Whether it was fun, tasty or something entirely new for guests, food tends to leave a lasting impression.

The experts at Boho Weddings say that, more than ever before, couples are seeking menu ideas that reflect their personalities as a couple as they seek to make a statement at their events. Celebrating with delicious, unique foods can make receptions that much more amazing.

Bite-sized bursts Tapas and a movement toward small bites has started to take hold at wedding receptions. Such a choice allows guests to try many different flavors without filling up too quickly. From sliders to mini grilled cheese to soup shots to bite-sized pizzas, many of these small bites feature flavors borrowed from familiar comfort foods - just presented on a miniature scale.

Comfort stations and bars Couples who love comfort food can put it on display with a crostini station, a mashed potato bar, a chicken and waffles station, a gourmet popcorn snack station, or a ramen noodle bar.

Food trucks/carts Outdoor weddings can be enhanced with the addition of trendy food trucks. These restaurants on wheels can inject burgers, sandwiches, international delights, crêpes, noodles, and so many more flavors into a wedding.

High-end options Couples may want to give guests a taste of the lavish with olive oil and vinegar tasting stations, whiskey bars, French hors d'oeuvres, Kobe beef sliders, lobster tails, risotto stations, and more.

Childhood favorites When it comes time for dessert, some couples opt



*Bride and Groom:
Rachel and Patrick Ralph
Mary Hampton Photography*

to avoid or downplay wedding cakes in favor of something simpler. A cookie-and-milk bar, doughnut holes, soft pretzel stations, pie pops, or dessert shot jars push creativity and sweetness to new levels. Do-it-yourself dessert stations, such as s'more-making and ice cream sundae stations, also can be big hits.

Couples are increasingly feeling less beholden to traditional wedding reception menus as they look to infuse their personal tastes into the foods they plan to serve their guests. Many catering managers and chefs welcome the chance to work with couples looking to create unique reception menus.

Wedding Day Necessities

Checklist For The Bride

- Pair of flats for the reception
- Jewelry and accessories
- Nice hanger for wedding dress photos
- Emergency and Repair Kit
 - Sewing kit with white thread
 - Tide-To-Go pen
 - Safety pins
 - Band aids
 - Double sided tape
 - Tampons
 - Deodorant
 - Tylenol

- Blotting pads
- Chapstick, lip gloss and lipstick
- Breath mints
- Q-tips
- Tweezers

Checklist For The Groom

- The marriage certificate
- Groomsmen's gifts
- Suit and all its accompaniments (don't forget your shoes!)
- Lint roller
- Iron and steamer
- THE WEDDING RINGS

Your Wedding Registry

Meet Tessa and Alex
WEDDING DATE
4.10.2021

When I asked Tessa what she and Alex were looking forward to cooking, she said,

"We are looking forward to having homemade pizza nights!

And, we are looking forward to drinking wine and eating coolide dough on Friday night."

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Both Bride & Groom

- CHARGED cellphones and charger
- Itinerary and time line for the day (for the bridal party as well)
- Assign someone to grab your things at the wedding and after the reception
- Wedding vows
- Checks for vendors (and tips in envelopes for each)
- Water and snacks

Bride and Groom: Clint and Hannah Miller
Shelly Holmes Portraiture

Tux-renting basics

www.metrocreativeconnection.com

The right fit can help a groom and the groomsmen look like a million bucks come wedding day. In fact, grooms often rent their tuxedos for minimal cost. Renting a wedding tuxedo has its advantages, namely in the cost savings. However, it's easy for a guy to fall into the trap of renting something that will not help him look his best if he isn't educated about the process.

Renting a wedding tuxedo has its advantages, namely in the cost savings. However, it's easy for a guy to fall into the trap of renting something that will not help him look his best if he isn't educated about the process. Looking sharp involves a little more than just showing up to the shop and picking a tux off the rack.

Choose your retailer wisely Many stores sell or rent suits and tuxedos. As is the case with many aspects of wedding planning, getting a recommendation from friends or family members can help grooms identify the shops that offer exemplary service. When attending others' weddings or special events, pay attention to the look of the groom and his groomsmen. Find out where they got their tuxes. Price alone should not dictate where to shop. Once bridesmaid dresses have been selected, the groomsmen can begin to shop around for tuxedos. This way ties and vests will coordinate. Initial tux selection should begin between four and six months before the wedding.

Get a proper fitting The experts at Men's Wearhouse say that it is important to be fitted for a tux or suit properly. Their professionals can handle the measurements, or men shopping elsewhere can use a tailor of their choosing. Shoulders should be close to the body in the jacket but not restrictive. Sleeves should fall so that they show a quarter- to a half-inch of shirt sleeves when arms are at the sides. An ill-fitting suit or tux can make a gentleman look sloppy. It is key to pay attention to sizing and use a shop that has a variety of styles that fit various body types.

Choose a classic style No one wants to look outdated in their wedding pictures.



*Bride and Groom: Austen and Allison Simmons
Shelly Holmes Portraiture*

By choosing a classic cut and color in a suit or tux, guys will look stylish no matter the year. Fun can be had with vest colors or bow ties.

Confirm the order The entire wedding party can visit the tuxedo shop for selections and fittings. The groom should call the store at least a month prior to the wedding to ensure that everyone has been fitted. Tuxes should be picked up a few days in advance of the wedding and tried on to ensure that everything fits and all accessories are included. This way last-minute alterations or substitutions can be made. Grooms and groomsmen can look dapper by selecting a classic suit or tuxedo, having it properly fitted and confirming that all wardrobe components are ready to go in time for the big day.

Ultimate Wedding Planner

One Year Before

- ___ Work out your budget.
- ___ Start shopping for wedding rings.
- ___ Prepare your guest list to determine the size of your wedding.
- ___ Select your bridal party and wedding day assistant.
- ___ Decide on a ceremony site.
- ___ Reserve your officiant.
- ___ Search for a reception location and secure your date with a deposit.
- ___ Choose a caterer if one is not available at your reception location.
- ___ Decide where to book your rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Check with your officiant's schedule for the rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Shop for your dress. It can take several months for your dress to arrive.
- ___ After you've found your dress, schedule your fittings.
- ___ Select bridesmaids' gowns.
- ___ Start the search for your wedding vendors.
- ___ Speak to a travel agent about honeymoon destinations.

9 Months Before

- ___ Start finalizing the guest list and addresses.
- ___ Choose a Bridal Registry and register for gifts.
- ___ Select and order groom's and attendants' attire. Schedule fittings and pick-up or delivery date.
- ___ Finalize all wedding vendors and put down deposits.
- ___ Finalize the plans for your honeymoon.
- ___ Schedule your engagement photos.

- ___ Submit your engagement announcement to the Grant, Iowa, Lafayette Shopping News.
- ___ Select and order your invitations.

6 Months Before

- ___ Meet with your florist and choose floral arrangements.
- ___ Meet with all your wedding vendors to finalize orders.
- ___ Order your wedding cake.
- ___ Begin doing your research for your marriage license.

4 Months Before

- ___ Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- ___ Send out your invitations. Include information on the accommodations.
- ___ Arrange final dress fittings.
- ___ Purchase wedding guest book.
- ___ Order your wedding favors, bridal party gifts and other wedding accessories.

2 Months Before

- ___ Make appointment with your beautician for wedding day hair styles for you and your bridal party.
- ___ Make appointments for you and your bridal party to get manicures, pedicures, massages, etc.
- ___ Choose a make-up artist and schedule a trial.
- ___ Start gathering your RSVPs.
- ___ Finalize your dates for your final dress fittings.

1 Month Before

- ___ Finalize and confirm all ceremony & reception plans.
- ___ Finalize rehearsal dinner details.
- ___ Go over song lists and requests with your band or DJ.

- ___ Give your photographer a "must-have list".
- ___ Confirm when final payments need to be made to vendors.
- ___ Draw up seating arrangements for the reception.
- ___ Have a trial session with the hairstylists and make-up artists.
- ___ Get your marriage license.

2-3 Weeks Before

- ___ Pick up wedding rings.
- ___ Confirm arrival times with vendors.
- ___ Confirm hotel arrangements for guests.
- ___ Have your final dress fitting.

1 Week Before

- ___ Give the caterer your final guest count.
- ___ Have final fittings for groom and groomsmen.
- ___ Make arrangements for your wedding gifts to be brought home.

1-2 Days Before

- ___ Get a manicure and pedicure.
- ___ Make payment envelopes for each vendor for your wedding day assistant to take care of.
- ___ Compile a list of all your wedding vendors with phone numbers for your wedding day assistant.
- ___ Host your rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Give gifts to your wedding party, family and fiancé at the rehearsal dinner.

Your Wedding Day

- ___ Get your hair and make-up done.
- ___ Make sure you eat and drink a lot of water.
- ___ Relax and enjoy yourself!

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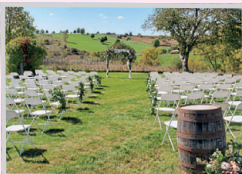


*Bride and Groom:
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