

Plan Ahead

Flag these pages. Your budget and timeline will be the most essential planning tools of your celebration.

Wedding Attire

Bridal Gown,	
Headpiece, and Veil	\$ _____
Undergarments	\$ _____
Accessories	\$ _____
Shoes	\$ _____
Alterations	\$ _____
Hair and Makeup	\$ _____
Wedding Rings	\$ _____
Formal Wear	\$ _____
Groom's Tuxedo	\$ _____
Fathers' Tuxedos	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Ceremony

Clergy or	
Officiator Fee	\$ _____
Marriage License	\$ _____
Aisle Runners	\$ _____
Ring Pillow	\$ _____
Other Rentals	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Reception

Site Rental	\$ _____
Caterer/Food	\$ _____
Beverages	\$ _____
Decorations	\$ _____
Gratuities and Taxes	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Music & Entertainment

Ceremony Music	\$ _____
Dinner Music	\$ _____
Dance Band/	
Disc Jockey	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Stationery

Save-the-Date Cards	\$ _____
Invitations	\$ _____
Response Cards	\$ _____
Programs	\$ _____
Thank-You Notes	\$ _____
Mailing Costs	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Flowers

At Ceremony Site	\$ _____
Bridal Bouquet	\$ _____
Attendants	\$ _____
Parents	\$ _____
Grandparents	\$ _____
Honored Guests	\$ _____
At Reception Site	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Hotel Accommodations

Wedding Night	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Gifts and Favors

Attendants' Gifts	\$ _____
Bride's Parents' Gifts	\$ _____
Groom's Parents' Gifts	\$ _____
Guest-Room Gifts	\$ _____
Favors	\$ _____

Subtotal _____

Overall Total \$ _____

Six to Twelve Months

- Decide budget; discuss sharing of expenses (see article on page 20).
- Choose location of ceremony.
- Confirm date with officiant.
- Arrange marriage-preparation counseling.
- Decide size of wedding party, choose attendants.
- Select gown and veil.
- Select attendants' apparel.
- Choose reception facility.
- Select caterer/wedding consultant.
- Select photographer/videographer (see article on page 132).
- Have engagement photos taken.
- Select music for reception.
- Select florist (see article on page 143).
- Compile invitation lists:
 - Bride's
 - Groom's

Four to Six Months

- Select and order men's formal wear.
- Select ceremony musicians and music.
- Make honeymoon plans.
- Register gift preferences with one or more bridal registries.
- Order invitations, personal stationery, programs, napkins, etc.
- Professionally prepare and print map to include with invitations.
- Set aside hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Have physical examinations and update immunizations.
- Buy wedding rings; order engraving.
- Reserve limousine, carriage, trolley, or coach transportation.

Two to Four Months

- Reserve rental items; candelabra, arches, canopy, linens, etc.
- Arrange rehearsal dinner.
- Address wedding invitations or hire a professional calligrapher.
- Review floral arrangements, finalize order.
- Buy attendants' gifts and your gifts for each other.
- Buy bride's and attendants' shoes; send to dyer.
- Order wedding and groom's cakes.

One to Two Months

- Mail invitations four to six weeks before wedding.
- Call all your contracted services to confirm arrangements.
- Final bridal fitting.
- Confirm honeymoon trip reservations, begin packing.
- Select reception decorations; balloons, candles, flowers, table favors, etc.
- Select ceremony accessories; unity candle, ring pillow, guestbook, etc.
- Select personal accessories; handbag, garter, engraved goblets, guest mementos.
- Arrange bridesmaids' brunch or luncheon.
- Have a relaxing date night together — no wedding talk allowed!
- Buy marriage license.

Two Weeks

- Schedule appointments for hair stylist, facial, manicure, massage.
- Invite wedding party and guests to rehearsal dinner.
- Review reception seating.
- Confirm out-of-town guests' lodging with reserved hotels.
- Confirm wedding party transportation and arrival times.
- Record gifts as you receive them; write thank-you notes.
- Arrange for gown cleaning and bouquet preservation after wedding.

One to Two Weeks

- Pick up wedding rings, check engravings and sizes.
- Final consultations: florist, musicians, photographer, videographer.
- Give final guest count to reception facility and caterer.
- Remind men to pick up formal wear and shoes; check for fit.
- Make a wedding-day schedule and give everyone copies at rehearsal dinner.
- Relax the day before; keep personal appointments; finish honeymoon packing.

Your planning is complete. Relax, your day will be wonderful!