

Iowa's Corridor
WEDDING
Guide

PLANS FOR THE WEDDING OF

_____ & _____

wedding date

WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

10 TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Decide on the type and size of your wedding (formal, semi-formal, informal).
- o Select your wedding dress and headpiece. Set a date for fittings (8-12 months in advance).
- o Organize your planning tools (notebook, file folder, Wedding Guide, WG App).
- o Decide a budget, who will pay for what, and how expenses will be shared.
- o Select a wedding date and time.
- o Call the church and meet with the officiant.
- o Decide wedding party size and choose attendants.
- o Select your reception location.
- o Select a wedding consultant.
- o Begin compiling your guest list.
- o Choose your colors, style, and theme.
- o Select your photographer and have your engagement photos taken.
- o Announce your engagement in a local newspaper or social media.
- o Insure your engagement ring.
- o Host an engagement party.
- o Send a "Save-the-Date" notice (9-12 months in advance).
- o Visit jewelry shops.

8 TO 10 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Select bridesmaids' attire and arrange for fittings (6-10 months in advance).
- o Discuss gown colors with moms so they can start looking for dresses.
- o Select a professional caterer.
- o Select your florist and plan floral decorations.
- o Set up your wedding website. Include web address on "Save-the-Date" info.
- o Register for gifts and include registry information on your wedding website.

6 TO 8 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Select a videographer or cinematographer.
- o Make honeymoon plans and apply for passports, if needed.
- o Finalize guest list.
- o Order wedding invitations.
- o Select musicians for the ceremony and reception (band, DJ, singers).
- o Reserve your transportation for the weekend, trolleys can book out 18 months in advance.
- o Register for gifts.
- o Shop together for your wedding rings.
- o Order favors and decorations.
- o Purchase unity candle, guestbook, and ring pillow for your ceremony.

WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

4 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Select men's formal wear and give information to the groomsmen.
- o Select ceremony and reception songs.
- o Block hotel rooms for out-of-town guests and book your wedding night room.
- o Set up cake tastings with various bakers for wedding and groom's cakes.
- o Purchase wedding and honeymoon insurance, if you would like to.
- o Reserve wedding day rental equipment.

2 TO 4 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Arrange your rehearsal dinner.
- o Select your wedding cake and place your order.
- o Plan final fittings for your wedding gown and attendants' gowns.
- o Address your wedding invitations.
- o Finalize your floral order.
- o Purchase gifts for your parents, your attendants, and each other.
- o Begin your beauty and spa regimen.
- o Preliminary hair and makeup consultations.
- o Shop for gown accessories and honeymoon apparel.

1 TO 2 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Mail invitations 6 to 8 weeks before your wedding.
- o Buy your marriage license.
- o Arrange bridesmaids' brunch or luncheon.
- o Finalize ceremony and reception decorations.
- o Begin preparing your ceremony program, including readings.
- o Finalize details of ceremony and reception with site coordinator.
- o Schedule hair, spa, and nail appointments.
- o Send out thank you notes for bridal shower gifts.
- o Begin your reception seating diagram.

3 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Send out rehearsal dinner invitations.
- o Finalize the ceremony program.
- o Bachelor and bachelorette party.

WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Finalize reception seating and placement cards.
- o Make out-of-town gift bags for guests.
- o Confirm all vendor delivery times.
- o Create a timeline for your wedding day and distribute to attendants and vendors.
- o Make arrangements for your post-wedding gown cleaning.
- o Finalize any personal vows.

1 WEEK BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- o Pick up wedding rings and insure your rings.
- o Final consultations with baker, florist, musician, photographer, and videographer.
- o Give the final count to the caterer (contact guests that have not responded).
- o Remind men to pick up formal wear and shoes.
- o Pack for your honeymoon.
- o Pack your bridal crisis kit.
- o Make sure marriage license is in order.
- o Wedding rehearsal and dinner.
- o Give attendants and parents their gifts.
- o Give the best man payments to be made on the day of the wedding.

DAY OF YOUR WEDDING

- o Remember to eat breakfast.
- o Allow at least two hours for dressing.
- o Remember to bring the rings and the marriage license.
- o Relax and enjoy your day together.

POST-WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

- o Open gifts/morning after brunch.
- o Write thank you notes.
- o Begin changing your name.
- o Send marriage announcement to your local papers.
- o Contact your photographer and videographer for delivery date.
- o Post your photos on social media.
- o Share good wedding vendor experiences with friends getting married.

APPAREL CHECKLIST

** Remember to bring proper shoes to all fittings,
and remind your attendants to do so also.*

Notes

BRIDAL SHOP INFORMATION
Store:
Contact:
Phone:
BRIDE'S APPAREL
<input type="checkbox"/> Gown (Designer, Color, Style....)
Date Ordered/Date Expected:
<input type="checkbox"/> Headpiece & Veil
<input type="checkbox"/> Bra /Bustier
<input type="checkbox"/> Nylons
<input type="checkbox"/> Garter
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanx/Petticoat/Slip
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes
<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry
<input type="checkbox"/> Wrap/Cape
BRIDESMAIDS' APPAREL
<input type="checkbox"/> Dresses (Designer, Color, Style....)
Date Ordered/Date Expected:
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes
<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry
<input type="checkbox"/> Handbag
FORMAL WEAR STORE INFORMATION
Store:
Contact:
Phone:
Date Measurements Needed by:
Date Ordered/Date Expected:
<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Wear Description (Designer, Color, Style....)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes

PAMPERING CHECKLIST

5-6 MONTHS BEFORE

- o Want to grow your hair out or try a new color? Talk to your stylist and start experimenting.
- o Analyze your nutrition and fitness routines.
- o If you haven't already, start a good skin care routine. Consider consulting a dermatologist or scheduling monthly facials.

3-4 MONTHS BEFORE

- o Make consultation appointments with your hairdresser and makeup artist. Bring along potential hair styles, and wedding day makeup ideas.
- o If you are potentially using a self tanner on your wedding day, now is the time to experiment how the product reacts with your skin.

1-2 MONTHS BEFORE

- o Trial run with your makeup artist. If you are going to do your own makeup, get a makeover at a department store, and purchase anything you need. This gives you time to practice.
- o Meet with your hairstylist for a trial run of potential hair styles. Bring along your veil or any hair accessories you plan to wear.
- o Schedule your hair stylist and makeup artist for your wedding day, and possibly for your wedding attendants and family.
- o If you have considered a new eyebrow shape, try it now.
- o Get a facial, or use an at home mask.
- o Whiten teeth if needed. Cut back on coffee and red wine for a sparkling smile.

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- o Final haircut or trim, and color touch up.
- o Remember to eat right, and drink plenty of water.
- o Exfoliate and moisturize, remember your elbows, hands, and feet.
- o Confirm your wedding day appointments.
- o Have your significant other schedule a final trim.

1 WEEK BEFORE

- o Avoid overindulging in salty snacks and alcohol at the pre-wedding parties.
- o Bikini wax, and final eyebrow shaping.
- o Enjoy a relaxing massage, from a professional or your significant other.
- o Final facial, only using products your skin is used to.
- o If you plan to spray tan 1-2 days before the wedding, make sure to complete your pedicure/manicure, massage, waxing, and facial 24 hours prior to your sunless tan appointment.

1 DAY BEFORE

- o Pedicure and manicure appointment. You could enjoy this with your attendants.
- o Drink lots of water!
- o Pack your emergency bridal kit.
- o Exfoliate and moisturize with products your skin is used to.

ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

- o Wear a button down shirt or robe so you don't mess up your hair and makeup transitioning to your gown.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Notes

	budget	actual cost
CEREMONY - 2%		
Ceremony Site Fee		
Clergy or Officiant Fee		
Marriage License Fee		
WEDDING ATTIRE - 8%		
Bridal Gown		
Headpiece & Veil		
Undergarments		
Accessories		
Alterations		
Hair/Makeup/Manicure		
Groom's Formal Wear		
Preservation		
RECEPTION - 40%		
Site Rental		
Caterer/Food		
Liquor/Beverages		
Cake/Dessert Table		
Rental Fee		
STATIONERY - 3 %		
Save-the-Dates		
Invitations		
Announcements		
RSVP Cards		
Reception Cards		
Place Cards		
Thank You Notes		
Postage		
TRANSPORTATION - 2%		
PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY - 10%		
Engagement Photos		
Wedding Day Photos		
Albums		
Prints		
Videography/Cinematography		

BUDGET WORKSHEET

budget

actual cost

Notes

	budget	actual cost
FLORAL DECORATIONS - 5%		
Ceremony Site		
Bridal Bouquet		
Attendants' Flowers		
Parents & Grandparents		
Reception Site Flowers		
Flower Preservation		
MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT - 5%		
Ceremony Musicians		
Dinner Musicians		
DJ or Band		
GIFTS - 2%		
Couple's Gifts to Each Other		
Attendants' Gifts		
Parents' Gifts		
PARTIES - 10 %		
Rehearsal Dinner		
Bridesmaids' Luncheon		
RINGS - 8%		
MISCELLANEOUS - 5%		
Wedding Night Accommodations		
Wedding Consultant		
Taxes & Gratuities		
Other		

INVITATIONS & STATIONERY

Notes

STATIONER		
Phone:		
Website:		
Budget Cost:		Actual Cost:
Date Ordered:		Date Promised:
Description/notes:		
STATIONERY CHECKLIST	Quantity	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Save-the-Dates		
<input type="checkbox"/> Invitations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs		
<input type="checkbox"/> RSVP Cards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Place Cards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Table Cards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Menu Cards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rehearsal Dinner Invitations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Thank You Cards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

ADDRESSING ETIQUETTE	
Guest	Outer Envelope
Married Couple	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith
Married Couple with Different Last Names	Mr. Joe Smith and Mrs. Ann Wilson
Married Couple with Hyphenated Last Name	Mr. Joe Smith and Mrs. Ann Wilson-Smith
Married Couple with Children	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith Ally, Kailey, Addison, Sadie and Kenzie
Unmarried Couple	Mr. Joe Smith and Ms. Ann Wilson
Single Person with Guest	Mr. Joe Smith and Guest or Ms. Ann Wilson and Guest
Divorced or Widowed Woman with Guest	Mrs. Ann Wilson and Guest
Married Judge	The Honorable and Mrs. Joe Smith
Married Clergy	The Reverend and Mrs. Joe Smith
Married Couple, Male Doctor	Doctor and Mrs. Joe Smith
Married Couple, Female Doctor	Doctor Ann Smith and Mr. Joe Smith
Married Couple, Both Doctors, Different Last Names	Doctor Joe Smith and Doctor Ann Wilson
Married Couple, Both Doctors, Same Last Name	The Doctors Smith
Same Gender Couple	Mr. Joe Smith and Mr. Bob Green

PHOTOGRAPHER CHECKLIST

Notes

PHOTOGRAPHER INTERVIEWS	
Photographer:	
Phone:	Package Information:
Website:	
Price:	
Photographer:	
Phone:	Package Information:
Website:	
Price:	
Photographer:	
Phone:	Package Information:
Website:	
Price:	

PHOTOGRAPHER	
Phone:	Package/Price:
Website:	
Events present for Photos:	
PHOTO CHECKLIST	
Couple Separately	Couple Together (continued)
<input type="checkbox"/> Alone - Close-up and Full Length	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaving the Altar
<input type="checkbox"/> With Mother/Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Hands with Wedding Rings
<input type="checkbox"/> With Both Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> During the First Dance
<input type="checkbox"/> With Grandparents	<input type="checkbox"/> Cutting the Cake
<input type="checkbox"/> With Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Signing Marriage License
<input type="checkbox"/> With Bridesmaids/Groomsmen	Wedding Party
<input type="checkbox"/> With Maid of Honor	<input type="checkbox"/> With Couple During Procession
<input type="checkbox"/> With Ring Bearer and Flower Girl	<input type="checkbox"/> Getting Bouquets or Boutonnieres
<input type="checkbox"/> With Wedding Party	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendants Walking Down Aisle & at Altar
Couple Together	<input type="checkbox"/> Recessional
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside Photos	<input type="checkbox"/> Ushers Seating Guests and Mothers
<input type="checkbox"/> Bride Being Given Away	<input type="checkbox"/> Guests Outside of Church
<input type="checkbox"/> Exchanging Rings and Vows, Unity Candle	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendants Toasting Newlyweds
<input type="checkbox"/> Exchanging Kiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing & Garter Toss
<input type="checkbox"/> Silhouette of Couple in Church Doorway	<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Creative Shots

RECEPTION CHECKLIST

** You may use several copies of this checklist while researching your reception venue.*

Notes

RECEPTION VENUE		
Phone & Contact:		
Budget Cost:		Actual Cost:
Number of Guests:		
Room Capacity:		
Hours Location Available:		
AVAILABLE?	Cost	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Room		
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff		
<input type="checkbox"/> Catering Service		
<input type="checkbox"/> Head Table		
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Tables		
<input type="checkbox"/> Linens		
<input type="checkbox"/> China		
<input type="checkbox"/> Stemware		
<input type="checkbox"/> Glassware		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cake		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cake Cutting		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cake Table		
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Book Table		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Table		
<input type="checkbox"/> Stage		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound System		
<input type="checkbox"/> Piano		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar		
<input type="checkbox"/> Un-cork Champaign		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bartender		
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioning		
<input type="checkbox"/> Decorations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up		
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxes and Gratuity		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Coordinator		
<input type="checkbox"/> Valet Parking		

CAKE & CONFECTIONS

BAKERY	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Date Ordered:	Date/Time Promised:
Description/Notes:	
Delivery Information:	
Other Dessert Notes: (Cookies, Cupcakes, Candies, Popcorn)	

Notes

TRANSPORTATION

COMPANY	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Pickup Date and Time:	
Description/Notes:	
Length of Rental:	Capacity:
Other Events with Transportation: (Pre-Wedding Parties, Rehearsal Dinner, Hotel)	

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Notes

DJ OR BAND	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Date Ordered:	Date/Time Promised:
Details:	
ENTERTAINMENT	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Date Ordered:	Date/Time Promised:
Details:	

VIDEOGRAPHY

STUDIO	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Events to Film:	

RENTAL & LIGHTING

COMPANY	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Pickup/Delivery Date:	Return Date:
COMPANY	
Phone:	
Website:	
Budget Cost:	Actual Cost:
Pickup/Delivery Date:	Return Date: