

# WEDDING *guide*

FOR THE MR & MRS



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PRE WEDDING

## PRE WEDDING

### *This is YOUR wedding!*

A wedding is a huge deal, and the tough part is it's probably your first time planning a wedding. If it's not, then you know how crazy planning a wedding is. But the tough part is, all the people that have planned a wedding before you have an opinion and probably think the way that they did their wedding was the best. So the thing you have to remember is, this is YOUR wedding, don't let anyone else plan it for you! And that can be tough to remember and I know you want to make all your relatives and friends feel involved but at the end of the day, make sure that you are making the decisions you want to make for your perfect day! Because it just needs to be perfect for you (: Now that being said, let me give you all the wedding advice that I have acquired through planning and working weddings!

### *Setting your date*

This is the first step in planning a wedding and since you are booked, that must mean you have a date picked out! Once your date is chosen, be sure that you start with your venue when it comes to booking things! If you find the perfect date but the place you want isn't available, it would be a pain to move everything around once planning has begun! Choosing your date has many variables! Extended family visiting town, school breaks, seasons and weather may all play a part in setting your date! But no matter what, this is your day. There may always be a reason to change it or move it or push it but you have to remember you can't please everyone so be sure that above all else, do what fits best with you and your schedule!

### *Ideal timeline*

Every wedding, couple and timeline is different and this is just a sample of the timelines that would be best photography wise and I'll tell you why!

#### **Engagements:**

- Time: At least 3-4 months before Wedding
- Why: Consider the time that it will take to edit your photos (2-3 weeks) and then design and order invitations (1-2 weeks) and gathering addresses (~1 month, but you can start as soon as you initially get engaged so that one isn't as big of a deal!)

This timeline helps ensure that any out of state relatives or friends that want to come to the wedding have ample time to make travel arrangements and this way you can avoid rushed editing fees!

#### **Bridals:**

- Time: At least 1-2 months before the wedding
- Why: Again, editing time plays a big role in this timeline as well! It takes 2-3 weeks to edit bridals (closer to 3 weeks during peak wedding season - Summer)

Taking your bridals at least a month before the wedding allows for 2 weeks to edit then 2 weeks to get your prints ordered and framed before the wedding! And again, I know every wedding is different! Some people may get engaged and want to elope one month later and to that I say heck yes! All the power to you! These are just some considerations to have when planning out your timeline so you know how your photos will effect your timeline and schedule!



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### *Booking your venue*

Choosing your venue is a huge decision and a huge undertaking! So here are some things to consider!

The first is obviously, are they available on your date?

IS THE LIGHTING GOOOD INDOORS (windows, lots of lights etc)

if you're planning on having an indoor wedding? (not absolutely necessary but will definitely contribute to the quality of your photos!)

If outdoor, does where they hold the wedding have good lighting at the time you are planning to be married?

Do they have different rates for weeknights vs weekends?

How long can you have the space?

Do they allow outside catering?

Do they decorate or is that up to you?

Do they have their own rentals (tables chairs cloths etc)?

Do they have any restrictions on send-offs? (some say no sparklers or confetti etc)

Does it have everything you need? (Bride/Grooms rooms, kitchen, dance floor, indoor/outdoor)

If you're doing the ceremony at your venue, how does the lighting look where the ceremony will be held? (I'll talk more about this in ceremony time & lighting later!)

What is their max occupancy?

Are there lots of spots for photos if you plan to get some or all of your bridal's on wedding day?

There are also many alternatives to a traditional venue space! I've shot a wedding out in the Salt Flats that was completely amazing (check it out [here](#)), I got married in a park that has huge family significance (check that one out [here](#), courtesy of [@caporalecaptures](#) <3), I've shot amazing weddings in backyards of family and friends (here is [one](#), and [another](#) and [one more](#)) even just out in nature like beautiful meadows ([this one](#) and [that one](#)) Orrrr if anyone wants to go somewhere super cool and just elope or have a super small intimate wedding (like [thisssss!](#)), heck yes let's do it! Okay you get the point, you can literally get married anywhere and make it totally amazing! So if a venue isn't your style or isn't a huge priority in your budget, let's just go find somewhere beautiful and make it your own!



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### *Who to book and when*

Okay this is a huge one! I'm just gonna make a list of all the vendors that I think are important but obviously again, you have to choose your priorities and who you want because trust me I understand, everything can get expensive fast! And obviously, book everyone as soon as possible for maximum success, but this is the order that I would book in because this is my personal preference of what was most important to me for my wedding! I'll talk more about making your list in the budget section!

#### **Venue**

- book as soon as you know your date, this is the foundation for all other vendors!

#### **Photography/Videography**

- book as soon as you know your date! Super important and we book out really fast! Especially for our summers! I usually start booking my summer schedule in the year before around Fall!

#### **Wedding Planner**

- Book as soon as you know your date because at least with mine, she could only do 2 weddings every week! This was probably the second best investment of my whole wedding (obviously being a photographer, photography was the first hahaha!) But hiring a wedding planner took away sooo much stress! There were so many less thing I actually had to think about! She had lots of connections and knew where to find me the highest quality vendors but staying within my budget. Seriously, best decision!

#### **DJ**

- I wasn't initially thinking about how important a DJ was until my wedding planner mentioned it but it was one of the best investments! It truly made so many things about the wedding sooo much smoother! He kept the wedding on schedule, he moved everything along seamlessly and kept the party going! We had sooo much fun at our wedding that we literally didn't want to leave when the time came! Made all the difference in the mood of the wedding!

#### **Florist**

- At the minimum, book 2 months out but if you can, book sooner than that because during wedding season, florists may have up to 4+ weddings a week!!! A florist and someone with that creative eye can really add some incredible beauty to your wedding! Decor is beautiful but florals sprinkled in here and there really put a wedding over the top! And when booking your florist be sure to talk to her about your bouquet for your bridal session!

#### **Caterer**

Try to book your caterer 3-6 months in advance, especially if you have a summer wedding. Especially if you're planning on having someone who specializes in catering events such as weddings. Another option is to have a favorite restaurant cater but be sure that you let them know far enough in advance to make preparations!

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### **Baker**

- I got engaged in March, and when I started looking for a wedding cake for my wedding in July, lots of bakeries were already booked up! So if you're planning on getting your wedding cake from a favorite bakery, be sure you book them well in advance! And if you have a super talented aunt or sister that wants to bake an awesome cake, that works too! It also depends on if you want a massive traditional wedding cake for everyone to have some, or a cutting cake for the show of it and treats or cupcakes for the guests! And if you want florals on the cake, be sure to give the florist a heads up!

### **Rentals**

- Its smart to try to get rentals about 4-6 months before your wedding, again especially if your wedding is over the summer. Most of these rental places have lots of weddings and there are only so many rentals they can lend out in one day! So be sure to get those booked quick!

### **Hair & Makeup**

- Try to book your makeup & hair between 2-4 months in advance! Especially during wedding season, these vendors can probably only safely have 1-2 brides per day and weekends fill up fast! Both of these were essential for my wedding day personally because most days the extent of my makeup goes to filling in my eyebrows and the extent of my hair style goes to throwing it up into a ponytail! Having your make up and hair look completely nailed just lessens the stress of your big day! It's one less thing you have to worry about if you leave it to a professional! And also getting your hair and makeup done for your bridal session just adds a little extra magic if that's something you want!





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### *Vendor Referrals*

One of the greatest thing about being in the wedding scene is working with so many amazing people!! Here is a list of some of my favorite vendors that I've worked with or admire! I'm going to put their instagram links on here because that's usually the best way to get ahold of them! And some of them I've worked with personally and with other's I follow them and their work and they're just amazing!

#### **Utah**

##### **Videography:**

[Emily B Photo & Film](#) - Emily Burgon

[Maddy Films](#) - Maddy Conlee

[Natasha Mack Films](#) - Natasha Mack

[Kait C Films](#) - Kaitlyn

##### **Florists:**

[Allyse's Floral](#) - Andrea Neilson

[Rose & Thyme Floral](#) - Katie Huntley

[Sweet Afton Floral](#) - Kaitlynn Putnam

##### **Hair:**

[Laura Loves Hair](#) - Laura Barton

[Bridal By Caitlin](#) - Caitlin W

##### **Makeup:**

[Makeup & Brows by Cherisa](#) - Cherisa

[Marisa Rose](#) - Marisa

##### **DJ:**

[The Ricky Barrera](#) - Ricky Barrera

##### **Catering:**

[Sheps Culinary Creations](#)

##### **Bridal Shops (Dresses):**

[Alta Moda Bridal](#)

[Mary's Bridal](#)

[Allyse's Bridal](#)

[Prichétt Bridal](#)

[Boda Bridal](#)

#### **Idaho**

(since I primarily shoot in Utah, these are just the vendors that I used & loved)

**Floral** - [Hope Blooms](#)

**Wedding Planner** - [Whitney Fredin](#) (AMAZING, she was also the caterer and handled the event rentals, draping and printing & framing photos!)

**DJ** - [Soundwave Events](#) - the DJ who did my wedding is JT who was awesome but I'm sure they're all amazing!

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### *Setting up your budget*

This can be one of the hardest parts of the wedding! So my best recommendation is to set your budget and find out what you have to spend. Then next, make a list of the top three most important parts of your wedding in order of importance! Mine were:

1. photography
2. videography
3. the dress

After I set these, they were the first three things I booked to know what I had left in my budget. This way, you're able to make sure you have what is most important to you!

### *Wedding Moodboard*

My hubs likes to argue that Pinterest is the death of all creativity buuut there are some pretty good ideas on there! I think Pinterest helps a ton to kind of narrow down what you love and what you don't especially when it comes to decor, colors and just overall mood! Especially if you want to try to find things that aren't super common! Some of my favorite things I've seen if I can make a shameless plug here for some super awesome shots: - confetti cannon send off/dance party- slip n slide send off- moped/motorcycle get away- I did a nacho bar at my wedding - best. decision. ever.

### *Wedding website*

One thing that was super helpful for me was having a wedding website! Especially in this day and age of quickly changing plans due to the lovely pandemic, having a wedding website would be a great way to have all the most current information! I just put the web address on my invite but you could also attach another little card that has a QR code on it! The website I used for my wedding was Zola! On this I was able to write a little blog post about the proposal and how our registry works, you could even post updates on the most recent plan changes! There was even an option to have different registries attached to the registry section of the website (so I had the zola registry for cash funds, amazon and wayfair). We were able to upload some highlights from our engagement photos which was a personal favorite (; and lastly we had a little page where we could make some recommendations of places to stay and eat and things to do for out of town guests! All around it was super awesome to have and made everything super accessible and narrowed down the amount of questions that got passed my way because let's face it, as a bride you have a lot more to worry about than answering repetitive questions!!! Here's our website if you wanna check it out! Our pictures are super goofy because we're kinda goofy so don't mind that hahaha! There's lots of options for wedding websites so find the one that works best for you! Another idea I've thought of recently is gathering emails when you ask for addresses so if any plans change you already have an email list you can send updates to! Just a thought (:

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### *Wedding colors*

This is another time where pinterest comes in handy! If you have one color that you absolutely have always wanted at your wedding, pick that color and look for color schemes around that color. So if you looove burgandy, you could search burgandy wedding color scheme. This helps you plan colors around it that won't clash or be too loud next to each other!

I have found that having one statement color is great but two tends to be a little distracting. For example if you love purple and yellow, having both of those would be very loud and distracting from what really matters (you guys!) BUT you could find a purple color scheme that isn't too busy like lavenders, deep greens and greys. Or if you love yellow, you could find a yellow that is more muted (like a powder yellow or a gold shade) that way you still get to incorporate a color that means something to you without it dominating your wedding! But above all, choose colors that fit you guys as a couple!

Any color can be distracting if it's super saturated! Any neons are usually hard to photograph (they can look like highlighters with any sort of flash lighting). Deep tones traditionally are great for fall and winter weddings because there aren't as many colors outside and these colors tend to pop on either all white (snowy) backgrounds or dull (bare trees, yellowing grass) backgrounds. In the spring and summer, softer tones are great because with all the greenery outside, softer colors aren't fighting for the attention of the photo! But again, whatever is best for you both and whatever fits your personality the most!

Overall, this is a personal choice and should be chosen based on what you guys want!!! These are just a couple tips for making the most photographic wedding!





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### *Bridal Party Attire*

This is such a fun and creative part of the wedding but let me tell you, that was one of the hardest decision I had to make in the whole wedding process! So dumb hahaha, of all the things to hold me up! So there's a couple ways to do this!

**Option 1:** Selecting a color and buying a bunch of different dresses in that exact color! Places like David's Bridal will let you choose the color from swatches then they have loads of different styles of dresses! One thing to keep in mind here is either keep them all long or all short because especially if the colors are all the same and styles are all similar, it would look weird to have a bunch of different levels!



**Option 2:** Selecting a dress for all your bridesmaids to have the same dress. This way they can each order their own dress or you can order it for all of them. This ensures that the colors are going to be the exact same and there's not much risk!



**Option 3:** Selecting a color and letting bridesmaids choose their own dresses. This allows for a bit of variation in color and style while still keeping the colors pretty much the same! I also love that it adds different textures! It also creates a bit of leeway with your wedding colors because if everything is exactly one shade of blue, if something mismatches (the flowers or napkins or something like that!) it wouldn't be as big of a deal! Choosing a shade kind of helps keep things low key!



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### *Florals*

There are lots of things to consider when it comes to choosing your florals! First and foremost, make your budget! For just your bridal party's florals (bridesmaids, groomsmen, bride & groom) the average that I've heard is about \$500. For decor throughout the wedding, I've heard between \$700-\$1,500 depending on how many florals you need to make your dream florals come to life!

You should book your florist about 2 months in advance and be sure not to change up your style in the last 3 weeks of the wedding because they have likely already ordered the florals and the things they need to put them together!

Also be sure when you are booking your florist you let her know if you will need a bouquet for your bridal session! This is a great way to have a practice run with how you want your florals to look!

And when choosing a florist, be sure that the style you are going for matches the style they advertise because similar to photography, it's hard to change your style to fit something that is outside your creative comfort zone.

Artificial or real florals? From what I have heard, there is not much of a difference in price if you are going to get artificial flowers that look as good as real flowers! So it really comes down to preference!

(florals below are by @allysesfloral)



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### *Hair & Makeup*

#### Makeup

There's not such a thing as too early to book, according to a wedding makeup professional, they say book at least 4 months if you want to make sure you book the vendor you truly want and everything is perfect for the special day! Definitely set a budget, see if the style of makeup is what you are wanting. And don't forget to ask about the travel fees if they are traveling to you. Also, the be sure to have a 'need to be ready by' time. Also for bridal sessions, this can be a great trial run for your makeup look to be sure that it's absolutely perfect before the big day and any changes you would like you have time to know and change ahead of time!

#### Hair

Again, no such thing as booking too early. If possible, book as soon as you know your date but I know saying that for every vendor can be overwhelming! So try to book your hair stylist at least 2-4 months before your wedding day! Especially in wedding season because people get booked up FAST! Another recommendation from hair professionals is to do your research and find someone who fits your particular style and your budget. Again this comes with everything in your wedding but it's very important that you book someone who has advertised work similar to that which you want for your wedding day! As for budget, it's hard to say because there is lots of variation but from my research it can range from \$85- hundreds of dollars but a solid average for brides would be \$150+. (Hair shown below is by @lauraloveshair)





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### *Wedding cake & treats*

This is such a fun and unique part of your wedding day! I've had clients do cupcakes, cheesecake and even brownies for their "cake" cutting/smash! Be sure that you book your wedding cake at least 3-4 months in advance and ideally as soon as you have your date! I remember calling around to bakeries and they weren't able to do my cake because they already had weddings that day! (My wedding was in the middle of July so crazy wedding season!) So try to book your cake in advance if you plan to have it professionally made! Also most professional bakeries have cake testing which honestly is probably the best part of wedding planning!

Another thing to consider is are you going to have a cake that is only for cutting and the photo op or a cake that is meant to be served to everyone? I personally did just a cutting cake because I had a treat bar at my wedding!

That being said, you obviously don't have to choose cake! You can do anything you would like for that first bite/cake smash photo op! If you guys want to do pizza for heavens sakes let's do it!

Some cool options I've seen for treats for a wedding are a donut wall, a cookie & milk bar, assorted treats, smores, chocolate fountain, soda/cocoa bar, shaved ice etc. The options are endless! So get creative and make it fit perfectly to what YOU guys like!

### *Wedding dress & alterations schedule*

One thing to consider when getting your wedding dress is the style that you are looking for! Try to narrow down what you love before you go because speaking from someone who had no idea and dived into it head first, it can be overwhelming if you don't have it at least SOMEWHAT narrowed down! That being said, having too specific of an idea of what you want can lead to disappointment so have an open mind! And I can attest to this one, it's just like when finding your person, when you know, you know.

Try to find your wedding dress somewhere between 4-8 months before your wedding! Some bridal shops carry multiple sizes of their dresses and in this case 3-5 months would be fine! Another thing to consider is if you plan to have alterations made or if you find a dress that needs them, ask the dress shop about their alterations timeline! Most dress shops need 1-2 months for alterations, cleaning and steaming the dress so consider that especially when it come to planning your bridal session!

Another option is renting a dress! This is quite common in Utah especially and there are loads of amazing places you can rent from! One downside to renting may be that you are unable to alter the dress to fit you perfectly, but if you can find one that works, perfect! Just be sure when renting your dress that you consider your bridal session if you're choosing to have one! I am not responsible to pay extra fees to have the dress rented or rental extended for your bridal session to fit in my schedule. If you want your bridal photos printed for the reception, you need to be sure to block out 2-3 weeks to edit the photos! If you have your bridal session on the same week of your wedding because that's the timeline you have the dress rented, that's totally fine too! Just know that you more than likely won't be able to have all your photos printed in time for the reception!

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### *Marriage license*

Marriage licenses vary between states! But in Utah County, here are some tips!

- You must BOTH go to the courthouse!
- Your marriage license is valid up to 30 days, so be sure that you can acquire it within 30 days of your wedding! IF YOU DON'T use it within 30 days, any expired marriage licenses issued as a paper copy must be returned to the Utah County Marriage License.
- Check the hours of the courthouse to know when you can go because sometimes they have funky hours and with work, it can be hard to find a time to go!
- But you can also apply online! The link is below! (Thanks Coronavirus!)
- A Utah Marriage License is only valid in the state of Utah.
- Bring your government issued picture ID with your birth date on it.
- The courthouse recommends that you get your license within 7-10 days of your wedding because there are NO extensions or refunds. So if your wedding gets delayed for like a pandemic or something (lols but crying on the inside) and you have to push it outside of the 30 day limit, you will have to pay the fee again.
- The fee is between \$50-\$80 depending on discounts and donations, so make sure you only have to apply once!

That's about everything! All the info can be found and verified on the [Utah County Gov website.](#)

Now for Idaho, specifically Ada county, it's a bit different! (I got married in Idaho so this one I know personally!)

- You must both appear at the County Records Office
- No appointment is needed
- They don't take check or card so bring up to \$30 in cash (I believe it is \$10 on the week days and up to \$30 on the weekend)
- Bring your social security card and one of the four following choices:
  - current drivers license
  - state issued ID card
  - passport
  - original birth certificate or certified copy
- You don't have to be an Idaho resident to get an Idaho marriage license, but your license is only valid in the state of Idaho so you can only get married in Idaho.
- There is no waiting period, you could get married the same day, and there is technically no expiration date on the license but if you don't use it within a year, contact the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (their link is on the website :)

And that's most of it! Their website would have the most up to date info and that is [linked here.](#)

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### *Marriage license*

Okay it's finally the final countdown to the big day! And now it's time to tie up any loose ends so your day can be a breeze! Here are some things that are nice to get done the week before to help your day be as smooth as possible!

- Get your ring cleaned! Getting that last second sparkle all polished up just makes it shine a little extra! Plus everyone is going to be looking at it (;
- Check in with your vendors! Double check with all your vendors on all final details including the timeline of the day, when they need to be where, finalizing colors and making sure all your orders are correct! Just reach out and say you're doing a final runthrough with everyone and you want to see if they need anything else from you! This just makes sure that everyone is there in the right place at the right time so there's no last minute disasters!

Dry clean your dress!! If you went out to do bridals somewhere that made your dress a bit dirty, I'd recommend cleaning it! BYU Laundry does it for \$70 and from what I've seen they do a great job! And this just makes sure that your dress looks nothing but radiant on your big day (:

#### **NOW IT IS TIME FOR SOME SELF CARE!**

This is so important so don't roll your eyes! Listen, you have planned an entire wedding. A WHOLE EVENT! You have earned some WELL deserved rest and relaxation!

So go **get yourself a massage**, help you relax and meditate for a little bit and just soak in some happy goodness.

**Get your nails did**, go pamper yourself! for this one, I'd recommend sticking with a neutral color just for the photos and it can be hard to match your wedding color exactly unless you have gone with the choose a color pallet route and let everyone do their thing. But as a rule, unless they are your colors, avoid neons and bright colors or patterns.

Lastly, **go get your hair done!** I would recommend at least 3 days before the wedding in case there is anything you don't absolutely love, you would have time to change it! Also I wouldn't recommend any crazy new styles you haven't tried before. Because these photos are going to mark a forever moment in your life, it may not be the most ideal time to try something new and different! BUT I CLOSE WITH THIS! YOU. DO. YOU. If you want to do a fun new style and a fun color on your nails, girl you got it! This is your wedding!



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### *Prepare for disaster*

This is something no one wants to think about but it is probably the most important part of this whole guide. Prepare for disaster. Here are a couple ways you could do that!

Make a "Day Of" emergency kit:

- Safety Pins/fashion tape/sewing kit
- Tweezers
- Bobby Pins
- Hair Spray
- Deodorant
- Bleach pen/rubbing alcohol/baby powder (is supposed to help get makeup off your dress) this is a great article for all last minute dress emergencies.
- Tampons/pads
- Fresh Makeup (concealer, lipstick, foundation, mascara etc)
- Perfume
- Back up jewelry/earring backings
- A redbull or your favorite energizing drink (it's the most exhausting day of your life lol)
- Advil/Tylenol + any other meds you may need
- Band-aids (just in case! we don't want any blood on the dress! But if you do get any on it, check that article!!)
- Lint roller
- Eyelash glue (if needed)
- Sole inserts for your heels (a must)
- Oil sheets can be handy!
- Q-tips
- A SNACK AND WATER! Now trust me, you may get hangry, it's a long day! I have the best photo of my bridesmaids feeding me a granola bar and water during pictures and it cracks me up but was SO needed! And again, make sure your bridesmaids are aware of your needs! They are there to HELP YOU! They love you! Put em to work!



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### *Prepare for disaster*

#### Contacts

This is super important! Give all your vendors and everyone in the wedding party a day of contact! You don't want last minute calls from your baker about where they should drop the cake or anything crazy like that! And it can be super helpful to have your maid of honor and best man make a group chat with all the bridesmaids and groomsmen so everyone knows who to contact if they need something! And be sure to give them an itinerary too (:

#### Back Up Plans

Last but absolutely not least, back ups. This is crucial! If your wedding is outdoors, think of backups to have in case of weather. Having a tent on standby, or a different part of the venue that you could go to would be smart to have! Or even being ready to tell all guests to bring an umbrella! Think of ways to watch out for weather!

Another thing to be aware of, is have a backup minister or someone to marry you! If your officiant is sick day of, you could be straight out of luck! So having someone else on speed dial or ready to marry you is a safe backup!

Basically, try to think of all the worst case scenarios, then think of how you would fix it! It sounds anxiety causing but once you have everything all planned out, I promise you will feel so relieved and prepared for anything!

#### **NOW. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVICE I HAVE FOR YOU!**

(even if I have said that like 90x by now)

Whatever happens on your wedding day will happen. You have prepared as much as you can. Time to just sit back and say you know what? whatever happens will happen, at the end of the day, the ONLY thing is that you are married to your person. And that's all this day is really about okay? So just take a deep breath and accept all the hard work you have put into this and just relax and now you are ready for THE BIG DAY!



# WEDDING DAY





# WEDDING DAY

## *Wedding Day Schedule*

Making your itinerary is so important! Try to think of every little detail and how long everything will take! Then once you have planned everything out, give a copy to EVERYONE who plays a role! All your vendors that are involved in day of, your parents, your family, your bridesmaids and groomsmen, your officiant etc! Everyone you can think of! This just helps eliminate any mix ups on time or forgetting to tell anyone exactly where they need to be and when (:

In this itinerary, include timelines, addresses and even order of people walking and just make it as detailed as possible!

Also it's smart to plan for extra time especially for things like getting ready! And if you are having someone speak in your ceremony that is a chatter, maybe add an extra 10 minutes for them too (; Oh and travel time! Plan for worst case scenario for traffic and everything else with travel!

And when it comes to planning out your timeline and how long things are going to take here are a couple examples of timing from what I have seen:

**Getting Ready:** ~2-3 hours for hair and makeup for bride and bridesmaids (maybe try a practice run for your bridals for knowing your hair and makeup timeline!) Also, usually brides don't love the photos of them completely fresh faced and hair wild and prefer the photos once they have their makeup pretty far along and hair done at least a bit! So it may not be crucial to have me there for the full getting ready time! And also, I can take some photos of details like florals and the rings and all the other little details (: That can take me up to 30 mins!

\*\* Also it's smart to do a run through of the ceremony before so people know who they are walking with and the timing of the music etc.

**Ceremony:** ~10-30 mins depending on the amount of people speaking and any special things you want to do during the ceremony.

**Luncheon:** ~1-1.5 hours, my hubs and I were at our luncheon for 45 mins, just long enough to eat, thank everyone and dip! But if you are doing things like toasts or any other reception like events then it may take longer!

**Bridal Photos:** ~20-60 mins. These can take as long or as short as you need! The longer time, the more that we can do so if you didn't have a bridal session before or planned for after your wedding I'd recommend trying to plan out at least 30 mins!

**Reception:** ~2-5 hours. This is entirely up to you! And your timeline will depend on what is important to you! For us, we didn't want to be stuck in a line all night, we wanted to be out partying with our guests! So our reception line was cut off at 45 mins and the rest of the night was spent dancing and doing all the fun things for the reception! (: And we planned our reception for 2.5 hours and were honestly so sad it wasn't longer! So just plan what is best for you guys and what your needs are!

## WEDDING DAY

### *Getting ready*

These photos aren't necessarily essential, but if you are wanting to have some getting ready photos, here are some tips for you!

Get the room all set up, by making sure there are clean floors, and all the clutter is tucked away. When looking at a venue, and seeing their bride room, if these photos are something important to you, then white walls helps, and making sure there is lots of natural light and hopefully a long mirror (: But anything works!

Also, some brides opt to get ready with bridesmaids then get the dress on with their mom and do a first look with their bridesmaids, or a first look with their dad etc. You can do it any way you want! But those are just a couple of the cute options I've seen!



# WEDDING DAY

## *Ceremony*

Planning out your ceremony has lots of important aspects for photos! Some of the biggest to consider is lighting and location.

### **Ceremony Time/Lighting**

Planning out your ceremony within the last half of the day is best for lighting, any time around noon where lighting is harsh can lead to really intense shadows and can be difficult to photograph. So planning out your ceremony within the last 4 hours of light in the day is usually best! If that's not doable, there are other ways to manage to make photos look the best we can!

### **Lighting**

Another option if you can't do it later in the day, is finding somewhere shaded or backlit. Try to go to your ceremony location around the time you are planning to get married to see what the best way to set up your chairs and everything will be! The rule of thumb is to have the back of the officiant to the sun. This will eliminate some tough shadows on your face!

### **Location**

We've already talked about outdoor and if you are going to get married out in nature, try to go to your location at the time of your ceremony before you plan everything out so you know exactly how it's going to look! If you are going indoor, this is still a good idea so you can know where the shadows are coming through windows and when it is the best time to do your ceremony! LIGHTING IS SUPER KEY TO BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS! But whatever you do, I can work with it because I have had plenty of weddings before creating this wedding guide that I have worked with on the fly!

NOW FOR THE ACTUAL CEREMONY!

### **Walking Order**

Plan out your music to have your bridesmaids/groomsmen walk down, then your song to walk down, and the song to exit to. Do a walk through before the wedding so everyone knows the timing and order of everything!

This is what a common order looks like but you can do whatever works best for you:

Officiant

Parents of the groom

Mother of the bride (may be escorted)

Groom

Bridesmaids + Groomsmen (outside to inside)

Maid of Honor + Best man

Ring Bearer

Flower Girl

Bride + Father of the bride/escort

# WEDDING DAY

## *Ceremony*

### **Walking Down the Aisle & Getting Set**

Once everyone is in place, it's time for you to walk down. Be sure that if the officiant asks everyone to stand, they also remember to tell everyone to sit once you are in place! Now, when it comes time for your big moment, be sure that you take your time walking! SMILE! And let your emotions shine through! Once you get down to your spot at the front of the aisle, BE SURE YOU ARE CENTERED! I have been to many weddings where the bride and groom are just *slightly* off center and it just makes the pictures just a smidge off! So if you need to, practice before the actual ceremony where you will stand! And center yourself to the arbor or flower arch behind you, and be sure your officiant is aware too! And if your officiant is your "arbor or flower arch" (for example with an elopement) then that's just one less thing to worry about!

Lastly, be sure that your maid of honor or whoever is up there will you remembers to fluff the dress! It will just be the cherry on top of a beautiful ceremony and picture perfect!

### **The Kiss!**

Vows have been exchanged, rings are on, now comes time to seal the deal! For your big kiss, just be sure to hold it for at least a couple seconds! And don't feel like it can only be one kiss! And whether you dip, half dip, kiss and throw your fist up in victory, make it your own! It couple be a simple sweet tender kiss or as big and dramatic as you'd like!

### **Back Up the Aisle**

Now this is a fun part! And usually one of the more favorite and iconic photos from the ceremony! Be sure to take your time, smile, high five, dance, cheer, HAVE FUN! Just remember to kiss once in the middle of the walk and once at the end of the aisle! And if you cheer, usually everyone else cheers so if you want a fun cheering photo of you walking back up the aisle, be sure to cheer and celebrate!



# WEDDING DAY

## *Bridal party/group photos*

All the photos come next! This part can take anywhere from 30-45 minutes depending on the size of your group and how easy it is to cooperate, but don't worry! I can command room politely and keep people smilin' and movin'! Having someone that knows all the family to assist me can be helpful! Especially when they can call people out by name if I need them to be on deck for a shot!

Here is a list of my usual shots and the order I do them in. If there are any shots you want beyond these, please let me know if your 30 day questionnaire! Also, which side of the family I do first is totally up to you and your needs for the day, such as setting up a luncheon or if one side has more young kids or older grandparents!

Big group (everyone in attendance) All family (everyone in attendance minus anyone who isn't direct family)

### BRIDE SIDE

Bride and groom all family  
Bride and groom parents, siblings, grandparents  
Bride and groom parents, siblings  
Bride and groom siblings  
Bride and groom grandparents  
Bride and groom parents  
Bride, mom and dad  
Bride and mom  
Bride and dad  
Bride and groom both sets of parents

### GROOM SIDE

Bride and groom  
Bride and groom all family  
Bride and groom parents, siblings, grandparents  
Bride and groom parents, siblings  
Bride and groom siblings  
Bride and groom grandparents  
Bride and groom parents  
Groom, mom and dad  
Groom and mom  
Groom and dad

### BRIDAL PARTY

Bride and groom, maid of honor and best man  
Bride and groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen  
Bride and groom and bridesmaids  
Bride and bridesmaids  
Bride with each bridesmaid individually  
Bride and groom and groomsmen  
Groom and groomsmen  
Groom with each groomsman individually

\*any other shots you want or any shots that you don't want, let me know! As for the bridal party, think of any specific poses you want ahead of time, if you don't have any I can suggest some!



## WEDDING DAY

### *Luncheon*

Luncheons can be a huge part of the day or they can be simply an excuse to fuel up! If your luncheon is going to have toasts, dances or any other special events you want captured, you will want to consider adding it into your hours on wedding day!

Otherwise, pictures aren't super important in my personal opinion, just because in my experience, people don't love me walking around and asking for a picture between massive bites haha!

BUT I am *more* than happy to be there if that's how you'd like to use your hours! (:

### *Reception*

There are SO many events at a reception and each reception is different! I've had some amazing receptions that really show the culture of the bride and groom or that are catered around things they are interested in, and it's so cool! So here are just some super common events for receptions and some tips to make them go well!

#### **First Dance**

There are typically three parts of a first dance, but everyone does it different! You could do the bride and father dance, the groom and mother dance then the bride and grooms first dance, or you could omit the parent dances all together if you'd like! I personally am super close to my mother, so in addition to the bride and father dance, I did a dance with my mother as well to "Mom" by Meghan Trainor and I loved it!

For the best photos for your first dance, I recommend that you be sure that you are smiling! Literally that's pretty much the only important thing! You can learn a typical ballroom dance, choreograph a dance to a favorite upbeat song or just sway in each others arms and think about the beauty of the day! Spins are usually a cute shot but it's up to you! And if the dress is not bustled or is too long to spin, don't sweat it! And at the end of the dance, I recommend a nice cute dip and kiss!

#### **Cake Cutting/Smash**

I've even seen a full on cream pie to the face before (epic) but be sure that if you do plan to get crazy with the cake smashing, to do it after all the best photo ops have been done! (group photos, individuals of the two of you, the first dance etc) AND ALSO YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SMASH THE CAKE! It's not for everyone! If you'd rather stay nice and clean on your wedding day, it's just as sweet to politely feed each other a bite!



## WEDDING DAY

### *Reception*

#### **Garter Toss**

The garter toss is totally up to you! About 50% of the weddings I have do it! It can be a super sexy fun thing but I find that music puts everyone at a bit of ease! So maybe picking a funny sexy song would be nice! Like Let's Get it On by Marvin Gaye or Sexy Back by Justin Timberlake haha! You'll need a chair for the bride to sit in while the groom can either go all in and grab the garter off the leg with his mouth or his hands! Also, most of the garters you buy will have one super cutesie lacy one and one more basic plain one. Typically you keep the lacy cute one and the groom can toss the more plain one to all the single boys! When it comes time for the toss, be sure that you do a one, two, three-toss so I can get a shot of you in focus pretending to throw then focus on the boys goin nuts for the garter! And after it's caught or snatched up, be sure to find the lucky dude who caught the garter and get a shot with him!

#### **Bouquet Toss**

The bouquet toss is a bit more common! For this, I'm sure your florist will let you know but typically you have a toss-away bouquet that is less extravagant that you can throw to aaaall the single ladies! For your bouquet toss, put on the classic song and call out all your gals! And just like the groom, you're going to do a one-two-three-toss, swinging the bouquet over your head each time like you're going to throw! And be sure to smile and look at me for at least one practice toss! And be sure to find the lucky lady that caught your bouquet so that we can get a picture!



## WEDDING DAY

### *The exit*

For the exit, it can literally be ANYTHING! I've seen some beautiful exits with lots of fun ideas that I'll list below but there are THREE RULES!

1. Kiss at LEAST three times, once at the beginning of the tunnel, once in the middle of the tunnel and once at the end! And watch for me towards the end and I'll give you the signal to stop and kiss! And if you're feelin it, throw a little dip in there!

2. Be sure to smile! Celebrate, dance, high five, do whatever you want to do! Just no stone face!

3. TAKE. YOUR. TIME. If you want some super cute photos of your exit, walk niiiice and slow! And a longer tunnel helps to be sure you get the shots you want! But take it nice and slow so we can get all the shots!

Some ideas for exits that I've done or want to do!

-long sparklers (be sure if you use them for the exit, it's a nice long sparkler or they'll burn out before you get there!)

-slip and slide exit (THE. COOLEST. GETAWAY. EVER. bride and groom swim suits)

-jump in the pool! (may want to consider a getaway dress for this, especially if you're renting!)-bubbles (great for day time!)

-glow balloons (fairy lights on a clear balloon is stunning!)

-white balloons (great day or night! and could be helium or just air and toss them!)

-rose petals (great day or night)

-flower tunnel (with extra flowers from the florist or decorations, like a tunnel after a sports game but with flowers!)

-confetti cannons (be sure you have a couple at different spots in the line and they DON'T point it at you!)

-hand fulls of confetti (bio-degradable would be smart if you're worried about clean up! or I've heard of people using bird seed haha!)

-paper shreds of your wedding colored paper/white paper (slightly easier to clean!)

-thick bright glow sticks (not just the dollar store ones or you won't be able to see them)

-glow sticks in a white balloon (you can google these and buy them online! Or look up how to make them)

-lavendar (biodegradable option!)-wave ribbons (white or in your wedding colors!)

-martinelli's/champagne shower (WOULD BE SO COOL! You may want to consider using a getaway dress though if you choose this, and maybe have some wet naps in the car for your hands and arms, or a towel. But the shots would be SO COOL! And I can instruct the people that would be spraying it to be sure we get that cool droplet effect!!)

-fireworks (please, please do it with someone you trust because this could go horribly wrong hahaha, and be sure they don't let it tip over HAH!)

And when you get in the car, be sure to either roll down the window and smile or smile through the windshield and kiss!

THEN YOU. ARE. HOME. FREE. AND THAT'S IT.YOU DID IT.

## WEDDING DAY





POST WEDDING





## POST WEDDING

### *Editing*

Editing time varies, but it typically takes around 4-6 weeks for your wedding gallery to be completed! In the summer, expect the longer side of those waiting times! And if there are any photos you need sooner for any occasion let me know because I can totally get you a couple photos for things like birthdays or special occasions where you'd need a photo to post or print

### *Gallery delivery*

Your gallery will be delivered into an online gallery that I will send to you via email and also with a link! This gallery can be shared via social media, email, you can share the link and send it to everyone you know! And I think it's smart to post it on facebook or somewhere where the guests that may have some photos in the gallery can access it!

There is unlimited free downloads of high resolution and web size photos, but I pretty much always recommend just downloading in high resolution! Your gallery will be up for 30 days and in that time it's your responsibility to download it somewhere safe! And I'd recommend downloading it to a few places and even uploading it somewhere online so that you know it's more than one place!

### *Posting photos*

This is a nit-picky thing but it's super important for me! When you post your photos, use the high resolution pictures so that it's the best quality, that's for you! For me, I just ask that you tag me and that you don't put any filters on your photos! If there's something you want changed about the editing style you can let me know! But filters just tend to misrepresent my work so I ask that you don't use them (: And if you want any photos in black and white that aren't already, let me know and I can totally do that for you!

### *Printing your photos*

When you print your photos, where you go may effect the colors and quality of the photos. Personally I printed mine at walgreens for my wedding, but I've seen some pretty rough prints with some extreme colors in my time in weddings so I would recommend printing a test photo before you order all your large prints from a place! Unless it's somewhere reputable with good reviews or recommendations!

### *Reviews*

Okay... this is the part where I get a bit selfish, but I would love a review from you! My business runs mostly on referrals! So if you enjoyed your time working with me and if you'd recommend it to friends, I would be so honored and soooo grateful if you would write me a little review on my google account! Here is the link! And thank you SO much in advance!

<https://g.page/lauren-rose-photography/review?rc>

## POST WEDDING

### *Referrals*

Also! I have a great referral program! Here are the details!

HERE'S THE DEAL:

Referring a bride who books her wedding with me is worth 20% discount.

Referring a client who books a portrait session (couples, bridals, families, seniors, maternity etc) with me is worth a 10% discount

Discounts can be stacked up to 20% on a wedding package or up to a full 100% off a portrait session!

Another perk option is you can cash in 20% (two session referrals or one bride referral) for a mini session which is a 30 minute session with 50+ photos back!

In order to get the rewards on referrals, they must book with me, not just inquire! So if you wanna shoot me a text or email with the names of clients that you sent my way and have booked with me, please do and I'll write those down so you can cash those in when you want!!

I LOVE YOU GUYS! YOU HAVE MADE IT TO THE END OF THE BRIDAL GUIDE  
AND I AM SO PROUD OF YOU! I CANNOT WAIT FOR YOUR BIG DAY AND IT'S  
GOING TO BE INCREDIBLE!

XOXOX

Lauren <3

