

Joplin Regional Area

Wedding

Guide 2023



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FAVORS AS

Sweet

AS THE DAY ITSELF.



Candy House
Gourmet



From the Editor



Ready or not, wedding season is right around the corner!

If your love recently put a ring on it, it's time to pick out the flowers, make the guest list and check it twice, and most importantly, say yes to the dress.

I'm so excited about this year's Wedding Guide because we have it all. We scoured the Four States for the best catering services, bridal boutiques, venues, photographers and more. We hope to be a one-stop resource for everything you need to plan your perfect wedding.

And since your big day is so special, we wanted to give you every bit of help planning so your wedding is a unique and beautiful representation of you and your future spouse. We have a countdown from proposal-to-aisle to keep you on schedule and make your days as a bride-to-be as stress free as possible.

We also have some great tips for preparing for your wedding day timeline. This Wedding Guide includes handy lists for your wardrobe, cakes and catering, flowers, décor, entertainment and more. Use these lists to track which vendors you have your eye on and estimate costs in each area.

Keep things drama-free at your reception with a seating chart. The who, what, where why and how for guest seating is on page 16.

You will also find fabulous tips for the modern bride. There's no end on how creative you can get with your space. Page 18 has the top questions to ask as you tour potential locations for your nuptials.

Finally, for the bride with a knack for DIY, we have several tips to save on flowers on page 20.

Planning a wedding can be a wild ride, and the possibilities are endless! I hope this Wedding Guide takes away some of the guesswork so you are one step closer to your happily ever after.

Happy wedding planning!

Lee Radcliff-Timmer

Joplin Regional Area Wedding Guide

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Published by

Show Me The Ozarks Magazine

PO Box 3325 • Joplin, MO 64803 • 417.455.9898 • www.showmetheozarks.com

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Editor photo by Hannah Sanderson Photography.



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CLASSIC: 50-150

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- 2 Signature Cocktails
- 3 Domestic Beer Choices
- Wine or Seltzers
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Countdown to Wedded BLISS

The Organized Bride's Checklist

12 Months Before

- ___ Settle the budget: decide who will pay for what.
- ___ Hire a wedding consultant.
- ___ Schedule your minister and begin premarital counseling.
- ___ Reserve wedding and reception sites.
- ___ Book the caterer, baker, florist, photographer, videographer, musicians and DJ.
- ___ Create the guest list.
- ___ Select and confirm your attendants.

8-10 Months Before

- ___ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- ___ Register with at least three gift registries.
- ___ Order your wedding gown.
- ___ Begin planning the honeymoon.
- ___ Order invitations and announcements.
- ___ Schedule an engagement photo session in time to have photos by month 6.
- ___ Begin planning the rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Meet with your florist for ideas.

6-7 Months Before

- ___ Choose the men's formal wear.
- ___ Order all the attendants' dresses.
- ___ Select music for the ceremony and reception.
- ___ Send engagement announcement to newspapers.
- ___ Meet with the baker to choose the wedding cake and groom's cake.
- ___ Choose your hairstyle.

4-5 Months Before

- ___ Meet with your florist to finalize decisions and place order.
- ___ Order all decorations not covered by florist, including rental items.
- ___ Order napkins and other reception necessities not covered by caterer.
- ___ Meet with the caterer to select menu.
- ___ Meet with a photographer and a videographer to select packages.
- ___ Meet with the musicians and DJ to finalize decisions.
- ___ Finalize honeymoon plans, make all the reservations, and order all tickets.

3 Months Before

- ___ Order wedding bands.
- ___ Purchase gifts for all the attendants and your fiancé.
- ___ Plan the seating arrangements for the rehearsal dinner and reception.
- ___ Make two appointments with your beautician – one for a trial run and one for your wedding day.

2 Months Before

- ___ Mail the wedding invitations.
- ___ Finalize accommodation arrangements for out-of-town guests.
- ___ Submit all tuxedo sizes with the formal wear store.
- ___ Purchase your shoes, lingerie and other wedding-day accessories.

1 Month Before

- ___ Pick up wedding rings.
- ___ Complete all final fittings.
- ___ Have your bridal portrait taken.
- ___ Finalize plans for the rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Prepare all the necessary forms for name and address changes.
- ___ Have your programs printed.
- ___ Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts.

2 Weeks Before

- ___ Get the marriage license.
- ___ Give invitations to the rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Make sure you have all the clothes, shoes and accessories you'll need before, during and after the wedding.
- ___ Buy clothes and supplies for the honeymoon.
- ___ Reconfirm honeymoon reservation and transportation plans.
- ___ Address announcements to mail on your wedding day.
- ___ Touch base with caterer, baker, florist, photographer, videographer, musicians and DJ.
- ___ Start "breaking in" your wedding shoes at home.
- ___ Create a wedding day schedule to hand out at the rehearsal.

1 Week Before

- ___ Provide the caterer with a final guest count.
- ___ Throw or attend the bridesmaids' party and give their gifts there.
- ___ Appoint someone not in the wedding party to handle last-minute concerns.
- ___ Try on everything you plan to wear the day of the wedding, including undergarments and jewelry.
- ___ Pack for the honeymoon.
- ___ Pack your wedding-day bag.

The Day Before

- ___ Relax! Enjoy the company of a few close friends and family members.
- ___ Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Get plenty of rest.

The Big Day!

- ___ Eat a good breakfast.
- ___ Give rings to the best man.
- ___ Enjoy!



Creating Your Wedding Day TIMELINE

One important but often-overlooked aspect of wedding planning is creating a schedule of the big day. A schedule helps plan for all the traditions you want to include and helps avoid any slow or dull moments for your guests.

Pro tip: If you can't afford a wedding planner, you can hire a day-of coordinator to keep your wedding day on schedule. You can thank us later.

Will you include a first look? Whether or not you include a first look will determine a lot about your schedule. For example, if there is no first look, you'll need to coordinate with your photographer for photos after the ceremony versus before.

Which traditions are in? Which are out? Is the first dance important to you but cutting the cake is not? When making your wedding day schedule, consider how much or how little time to give to each event based on your personal preferences.

Consider the time of year. Weather and daylight hours will determine a lot about your schedule. If the sun sets at 5 pm, consider an earlier ceremony. If it's still blazing hot outside at 5 pm, consider a later ceremony.

What's important to your guests? Think about your friends and family and how they like to celebrate. Would your folks love a long, traditional ceremony or something short and sweet? Are they the type to dance the night away? Do you hang out with a bunch of foodies? Your schedule can reflect how you and your people like to get down.

Pad, pad, pad. A common complaint newlyweds report is that the day felt rushed. Be prepared for each event to take longer than expected and pad your schedule so you can relax and savor each moment instead of rushing to the next thing.





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Tips for Writing Your Vows

Couples are increasingly writing their own wedding vows in order to make their wedding a more personal and unique experience, to have a chance to express their truest feelings from the heart, and to take the first step into marriage with vows specific to their goals. While the heart and soul that go into the vows are genuine, it can be difficult for a bride- or groom-to-be to put those feelings into words. They may be worrying if they're saying the right thing, if they're forgetting something, or they may have a case of writer's block. While writing your vows can be difficult, it will be so worth it at the altar. Here's a guide:

- 1. Create a framework with your fiancé.** The first thing you must do is discuss the guidelines of the vows with your fiancé. How long will they be? Will you write them together or separately? Should they be similar or very different? Are there any topics that should be off limits? Creating a set of rules and guidelines will narrow the scope of the vows, giving you a good jumping-off point.
- 2. Write down a list of things you love about your fiancé.** Start your vows by telling your fiancé why you love him or her and why you're excited to be marrying them. Think about the big things and little things -- the way he always makes you feel beautiful to the way she laughs when she's watching her favorite TV show -- and express how you can't wait to continue loving those things for the rest of your life.
- 3. Tell the story of when you first fell in love.** When did you first know your fiancé was The One? Tell your unique story. "I first knew you were my future husband when you ..."
- 4. Write down a list of promises.** From the big -- "I will love you in sickness and in health" -- to the small -- "I will kiss you each night before bed" -- this is your chance to profess to your future spouse all that you intend to bring to the table to give him or her a happy life.
- 5. Incorporate a romantic quote or religious verse.** Is there a Bible verse you and your fiancé relate to? Or maybe there's a romantic poem or quote that comes to mind. Include it in your vows and explain to your fiancé why that quote reminds you of him or her.
- 6. Practice, practice, practice.** Like any public speaking endeavor, practicing what you will say aloud will help you become more comfortable. Just don't over practice to the point that you're reciting your vows by rote. You'll want to speak with emotion when you're at the altar.



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Seating Charts

The Who, What, Where, Why and How

To seating chart or not to seating chart? This increasingly foregone wedding tradition has its merits and deserves to make a comeback. Here's the lowdown on wedding-seating charts and why you should consider having one.

Why have a seating chart? They can help avoid awkwardness as people try to decide where to sit and who to sit with. It also avoids an empty table or over-crowded table.

Where should guests be seated? The general rule of thumb is "VIP Family Members=Closer Seats." Parents and grandparents are usually seated at tables closer to the bride and groom, while co-workers and the younger crowd won't be offended if they're seated further away.

Who sits together? Group people based on their relationship to you. Seat you co-workers together; your college friends together; and so on. And those feuding relatives? Separate tables.

How do guests find their seats? The two mainstays are either a large seating chart or escort cards. As far as how you present them? The possibilities are endless!

What faux pas should be avoided? The singles table. Not all singles are trying to meet someone, and your single friends might resent feeling as though they've been inadvertently set up on a blind date.



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Venue Shopping

Five Questions to Ask

Couples today have lots of options to consider from event venues and chapels to outdoor pavilions and even Airbnbs! With so much variation, be sure to tick off these five questions as you look.

1) Is there plenty of space? Have a good idea of your guest count before you shop, and make sure your venue will have plenty of space to designate areas for eating, drinking and partying. The last thing you want is for your tables to take up the whole dance floor.

2) Is there good lighting? Not having proper lighting is a common regret couples report having after the wedding. Does the venue have large windows to let in natural light? If not, is there ample lighting to light up the space?

3) What's included, and what do we need to bring ourselves? This greatly varies from venue to venue and can be a big determinant based upon your budget or how much creative control you want to have.

4) Who will be our point of contact as we plan our wedding and on the wedding day? This is an often-overlooked question. You will have questions as you plan, so be sure to set up proper channels of communication to avoid a headache later.

5) Are there different rates for different days of the week? Time of day? Season? Couples looking to pinch pennies may be able to opt for a slightly off-season wedding and, in some cases, a Sunday or mid-week wedding.



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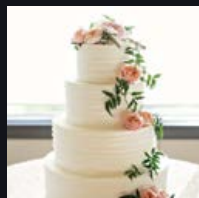
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Flowers on a Budget

Flowers are among the most important (and most expensive!) facets of any wedding. Bouquets, boutonnieres, decorations, centerpieces, the altar -- flowers are everywhere! To prevent your foray into merry matrimony from being riddled with wedding debt, here are some tips and tricks for beautiful florals without breaking the bank.

Buy in Season, Buy in Bulk

Research the flowers that are in season at the time of your wedding -- they will be cheaper than out-of-season blooms. If you choose just one or two types of flowers, your florist can purchase them in bulk, and you will get a better deal. And be flexible -- focus more on the colors you are looking for rather than the type of flower. This will give you more seasonal options, and more options means more opportunities to save.

DIY

Websites like Pinterest are jam packed with do-it-yourself instructions for beautiful bouquets, table runners, decorations, hair wreaths and more. Get some friends together and have a fun DIY party one or two days before the wedding.

Keep It Simple

A trendy centerpiece look is using several tiny vases with two or three blooms in each one. Scour antique stores and flea markets to find a collection of mismatched vases that will give your tables an eclectic, vintage look. Another way to scale back costs is to downsize the bridesmaid bouquets -- there are several pretty petite bouquet trends out there.



Where to spend...

Keep it real. Your special day is a classy event. Save the fake flowers for your craft closet.

Statement blooms. Splurge on your dream flower for the focal point. Buy it in a smaller quantity and spread it out. Complement your statement flowers with cheaper, filler options like greenery (eucalyptus, lemon leaf or pittosporum) and low-cost florals (spray roses, football mums and wild flowers).

The bride's bouquet. Have a professional arrange the bride's bouquet -- this is the most important flower arrangement of the day. Just about everything else can be DIY'd.



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Wardrobe

Vendor

Cost Estimate

Bridal Gown	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tuxes	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bridesmaids	<hr/>	<hr/>
Flower Girl	<hr/>	<hr/>
Ring Bearer	<hr/>	<hr/>
Shoes	<hr/>	<hr/>
Headpiece/Veil	<hr/>	<hr/>
Lingerie	<hr/>	<hr/>

Beauty

Makeup	<hr/>	<hr/>
Hair	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accessories	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tanning	<hr/>	<hr/>

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Cakes & Catering

Cake/Desserts

Vendor

Cost Estimate

Wedding Cake

Groom's Cake

Cake Topper

Server

Toasting Glasses

Cookies

Catering

Rehearsal Dinner

Reception

Hors d'oeuvres

Notes



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Notes



Florist / Décor / Entertainment

Flowers/Décor

Vendor

Cost Estimate

Bride's/Bridesmaids

Bouquets

Corsages/Boutonnieres

Centerpieces

Altar/Pew Decor

Flower Girl Petals

Balloons

Candles

Ring Pillow

Reception Decorations

Miscellaneous Fees

Music/Entertainment

Ceremony

Reception/Band

Fireworks

Notes



Jewelry / Photography / Stationery

Jewelry

Vendor

Cost Estimate

Engagement Ring

Wedding Bands

Bridesmaid Gifts

Photography

Engagement Photos

Wedding Photos

Videographer

Stationery

Invitations/Thank you notes

Guest book/Pen

Seating and Place Cards

Announcements

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Notes



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Rentals / Transportation / Misc.

Rentals

	Vendor	Cost Estimate
Tents	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tables/Chairs	<hr/>	<hr/>
Linens	<hr/>	<hr/>
Lighting	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Transportation

Limousine	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Misc.

Childcare	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gratuities	<hr/>	<hr/>
Guest Hotel	<hr/>	<hr/>
Guest Favors	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes



Venues

Rehearsal Dinner	Vendor	Cost Estimate
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Ceremony		
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reception		
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Site Fee	<hr/>	<hr/>
Officiant's Fee	<hr/>	<hr/>
Marriage License	<hr/>	<hr/>

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www.indigoskycasino.com

Hwy 60 west of Seneca • 1.888.992.SKY1

Joplin Elks Lodge 501 & Venue

802 W. 26th St. • Joplin, MO

bpoejoplin@gmail.com

417.434.6127 or 417.624.0048

La Boussole Medical Spa & Wellness Center

5594 W. Junge Blvd. • Joplin, MO

Call: 417.206.1933 • Text: 417.434.4449

www.LaBoussoleJoplin.com

La Rose Blanche

1977 S. Dry Creek Lane • Joplin, MO

417.438.9075 • Find us on Facebook

Lendonwood Gardens

www.lendonwood.com

1 mile west of Main Street on Har-Ber Road

Grove, OK • 918.786.2938

Little Sugar Farm Glamping & Gathering

552 Slinkard Road • Jane, MO • 214.783.0544

Facebook: @LittleSugarFarmhouse

Instagram: @Little_Sugar_Farm

www.littlesugarfarm.com

The Loft at Keith Farms

4843 N. Farm Road 53 • Ash Grove, MO

417.830.4599 • allthatmusicdj@gmail.com

www.theloftatkeithfarms.com





Wedding Services Directory

Memorial Auditorium

Downtown Pittsburg, KS
620.231.7827 • maccinfo@pittks.org
www.MemorialAuditorium.org

Rendezvous Room at River Ranch Resort

101 River Road • Noel, MO
417.592.9068 • events@riverranchresort.com

Royalty Event Center

638 SE 80th Rd • Golden City, MO
417.276.1040 • www.royaltyeventcenter.com

The Silver Spoon Barn

4975 E. Zora • Joplin, MO • 417.499.0069
www.thesilverspoonbarn.com

Stella Springs

20344 Hwy O • Stella, MO • 417.628.3418
www.stellaspringswedding.com

The Sterling Event Center

www.facebook.com/thesterlingeventcenter
4975 E. Zora Street • Joplin, MO • 417.499.0069

Twin Hills Golf & Country Club

2019 S. Country Club Dr. • Joplin, MO
417.623.4112 • sroyle@twinhillsgolf.net
www.TwinHillsGolf.net

Venue 105

6960 County Road 105 • Carthage, MO
venue105.com Facebook: @Venue105
Email: host@venue105.com

Whispering Woods Venue

Joplin, MO • 417.726.9383 • 417.706.8678
www.whisperingWoodsVenue.com
Find us on Facebook.

Zena Suri Alpacas

www.zenasuralpacas.com • 804.389.2579
35401 S. 580 Road • Jay, OK



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