



Carol's
Photography

The WEDDING
GAME

PLAN!

Yay!

NOW THE FUN BEGINS...

A Month-to-Month Planning Guide so
you have a Game Plan!

__ Let all your family and friends know of the good news! Be sure to tell all the most important

parties first (i.e. your parents) before you announce on social media!

__ think about booking your vendors. Check out their work, read their testimonials and make sure you connect with them as you will be communicating a lot with them throughout the process.

__ Get organized and start a wedding binder where you will keep all your vendor contracts, timelines, spreadsheets, payment schedules, the guest list, décor ideas, etc.



__ Decide on your wedding date and your overall vision/wedding style i.e. time of year, wedding size, city, church vs. beach, hotel vs. barn, modern vs. rustic, etc.

__ Set your priorities. What are the most important aspects of your wedding to you... the venue, the music, the food, the photography, the décor, the personal details, etc.

__ Research Vendors that fit your wedding style and start interviewing! Collect their pricing info and contact info. If you love them, book them! The good ones get booked up fast.

__ Collect lists from both families and a list of your friends to create a guest list spreadsheet to include contact info, replies, gifts and other relevant info.

__ Develop the dreaded budget. Who will be contributing? How much? For what?

__ Reserve your Ceremony and Reception venues for your wedding date.

__ Choose your Wedding Party. Decide whom you want to stand next to the two of you on your big day (or they can sit during the service but think about the pictures).

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__ Book your Officiant (especially if you're not getting hitched in a church). Asking a relative or friend is also a great idea as it will be a little more personal and it's easy enough for them to be ordained online.

__ Book your Photographer (and make sure that you not only love their work but that you click, because they'll be with you every step of the way on the day!). Ask to see a full wedding gallery of theirs so you have an idea of what will be captured on your day and delivered to you.

__ Go dress shopping!!! Bring a small peanut gallery, and remember it's all about you. It can be hard to decide with an earful of differing opinions.

__ Throw a party! Ask a dear friend or your families to host an engagement shindig and celebrate!

0 to 3 months

___ Send your invitations on there “marry” way! (Preferably around the twelve-week out mark with the RSVP date being around a month prior to your wedding date so you have time to collect any stragglers).

___ Start working on any signage that you may want. Some signage is necessary to help direct guests (i.e. to the restrooms), it’s a nice touch to welcome your guests with a welcome sign as they arrive as well.

___ All the Gents attire should be ordered and fitted.

___ Decide on and purchase gifts for your bridal party members. Something to give a special thank you to your parents and an item for the girls and guys to wear on your day is a nice touch i.e. jewelry, shoes, bowties, tear hankies, etc.

___ Choose all your wedding day flair; hair clip, belt, earrings, bracelets, something old, something new, something blue...

___ Consider putting together welcome bags if you are having a destination wedding for your guests. Things to consider including: bottled water, a small snack, a hangover kit, a door hanger, a map of the area, your favorite local spots, tourist info, a wedding weekend itinerary, directions, etc. (it’s nice to remind them of where and when the wedding is, no really – a lot of people forget their invitation).

___ Purchase all your under-the-dress essentials and bring them to your final dress fitting. Be sure to learn how to bustle your dress at the fitting & bring a friend or family member who will be there to assist you on the wedding day to learn how to do it.

___ Obtain your Marriage License.

___ Touch base one last time to all your Vendors to confirm orders and times. (If you will be contracting me or another wedding planner, they should be contacting each one of them and creating the timeline to be sent as well as your floorplan).

___ Call guests who have not yet returned their RSVPs.

___ Order address label stamp with the Mr. + Mrs. to add a sweet personalization when sending out your thank you cards.

___ Create your Reception seating chart and floor plan. Order place cards and/or pass along information to your Calligrapher.

___ Send out the final guest list/head count to your Caterer/Venue. Typically, they need a guaranteed count 2 weeks from the wedding date.

___ Send out final Vendor Payments to all vendors so you don't have to worry about settling up with them at the reception.

___ Order or craft Favors. Personal keepsakes that reflect your wedding style are a nice touch(definitely can pass on favors though, you're throwing a great party, right?!).

___ Attend your Bachelor/Bachelorette parties!

___ Write your vows or decide what ceremony traditions you would like to incorporate i.e. readings, unity candle, wine sharing etc.

___ Remember what's important – and that's you two getting married and spending the rest of your lives together. Smile, relax and enjoy your most beautiful day!

Don't do something just because "MOST" people do it or because that's what you're "supposed" to do at a wedding. Let's make it Unique to who you are individually and as a couple"



6 to 3 months

___ Develop your song lists and send them along to your Ceremony and Reception Musicians or DJ.

___ Attend pre-wedding counseling (if necessary or required – typical for church services).

___ Shop for your bling'n Wedding Rings!

___ Hire a Calligrapher if you want hand addressed envelopes or custom wedding day signage... Maybe you want to order vintage/mismatched stamps too? A wax seal?

___ Schedule your first dress fitting and make sure to bring along your wedding shoes and undergarments so the tailor can choose the appropriate length for you.

___ Book the ceremony rehearsal site and rehearsal dinner venue. Or are you planning a full-on Welcome Party, with all your guests included? If you're planning to host a day-after brunch for your guests, book that spot as well.

___ Research local Marriage License requirements. Be sure to check if the license expires or if there is a waiting period.

___ Schedule your hair and makeup trials. Inspiration pictures are key here, so bring along all that you have collected and don't hesitate to speak up!

___ Address your invitations or supply them to your Calligrapher.

___ Have a Bridal Shower – you never need an excuse to get with your best girlfriends but getting married is a pretty good one

___ Book a Caterer – multiple courses, buffet, stations, or family style? Make sure you have a little bit for everyone to cover any possible dietary restrictions among your group.





8 to 6 month

___ Reserve a block of Hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. Pick three hotels at different price points close to your Reception site.

___ Pick out/design your papery. You want your save-the-dates, invitations etc. to express your wedding style and to be in sync with one another.

___ Finalize your guest list. Keep in mind that each guest = \$\$\$. Cutting out distant relatives or maybes is the easiest way to loosen up your budget.

___ Send out those Save-The Dates! (STDS are not necessary if you send out your invitations prior to 3 months out, giving guests ample time to make travel plans).

___ Together with your beau, decide on the Groom and Groomsmen attire.

___ Schedule your Engagement Session with your Photographer within 6-3 months of your wedding date. Not only will these images be lovely keepsakes, they will also help you and your love feel more comfortable in front of the camera come your wedding day.

___ Hire your Florist and finalize on all your ideas to create a theme/look. Make a plan so that all you envision comes together seamlessly on the wedding day, better than you could have possibly imagined.

___ Book your Ceremony Musicians, i.e. acoustic guitar, string trio, harpist, keyboardist etc. – do you want vocals? Otherwise your DJ can handle your ceremony – live music at some point during an event is a nice touch but not a must.

___ Search for and book your wedding cake baker/dessert provider. Schedule a tasting and provide inspirational photos. A tiered cake, a mini cutting cake among a dessert display of cupcakes, cookies, macrons, etc. – there are a lot of options.

___ Start planning and book your Honeymoon if your planning one after the wedding!

___ Decide on your Reception Menu. Passed hors d'oeuvres, stations, buffet vs. plated, signature drink, passed champagne, table side wine serving, open bar vs. per consumption, etc.

___ Meet with Rental Company if you would like specialty linens, chairs, varying shaped tables, chargers, special china, etc.

___ Order your invitations. Remember, the invite is the first touch you're going to have with your guests if you're not sending out a Save-The-Date – it should reflect your wedding vibe.





10 to 8 months

__ Start a registry at your favorite stores. Choose two to three retailers, including one that is a national chain and one that has online purchase options.

__ Create a wedding website. This is great for destination weddings and you will include the web address on your save-the-dates. Site to include all wedding related info for your guests including ceremony and reception sites, hotel blocks, registry info, your love story etc...

_ Interview and book your Videographer (optional)

_ Shop for Bridesmaid dresses (look for flower girl's too). Mismatched or matching, consider letting them have options to fit their styles and body types... Order them far enough in advance for tailoring.

__ Collect inspirational pictures and envision your floral décor - start editing down your Pinterest board or narrowing it down to just a few images that speak to you!

_ Book your Reception Band or DJ. Don't worry the time of the cheesy DJ has passed, the less time on the mic is preferable these days – you provide a detailed music list and they will play your selected songs at the appropriate times, reading your crowd.

__ Arrange for transportation. Consider buses, carriages and vintage cars. Decide if you will shuttle your out-of-town guests from their hotels to the wedding or if it is required by your selected venue.





I know that this wedding “Game Plan” can be helpful but also maybe a little bit daunting or intimidating... Not to worry!

This is where an experienced wedding planner can come in to help you -either full service or day of..... to help you to think about all the little details that really make an event memorable beyond words.

Don't get me wrong, this is something you can do yourself without the help of the wedding planner. I always go over your timeline with you then make a a itinerary of the day to follow. Your wedding party can also help you out, just ask them, tell them your vision!

Your day should be a reflection of you and your true love. The design of the event begins with you, as we approach your day as a collaboration, built from the story only you can tell.

I want to learn about you and your love story to work alongside you to design and plan the event of your dreams, one that is uniquely yours. I may be your photographer ,designer, planner, florist or stylist, but at the top of the list - I’m always your ally and confidant through the process.

I look forward to the opportunity to chat with you, to learn more about what you’re envisioning and how I may assist you.

Cheers and best wishes!

Much Love, Carol G

Carol's Photography

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