

WEDDING DAY TIMELINE GUIDE



*Helpful tips and bonus printable worksheet
to help plan your best day ever!*

A romantic couple is shown in a field of tall grass. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark suit and is leaning towards the woman on the right. They are about to kiss. The woman has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a white dress. The background is a soft-focus field of green grass under a bright sky. The text is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

PLAN THE
DREAM
WEDDING
YOU CAN BE
FULLY
PRESENT
FOR

1. KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE WORKING WITH

a. Chat with your venue(s) about the hours you will have access to the site and the type of setup and coordination support they provide.

b. List out the approximate coverage and/or arrival times of your vendors - Photographer, DJ, Entertainment, Florist, Rentals, Caterer, Cake, etc.

c. Consider hiring a coordinator if you are not already working with a professional planner! Many times a coordinator might be offered as part of your venue package - ask about the level of coordination they provide and if you identify any gaps (i.e. décor setup or who is sending you down the aisle), a wedding coordinator will absolutely help your wedding day go as smoothly as possible.



2. MAP OUT YOUR KEY LOCATIONS

a. List your getting ready locations, ceremony and reception location as well as any special photo locations with approximate travel time.

b. Figure out a transportation plan if applicable.



3. FIRST LOOK OR DOWN THE AISLE?

a. Decide if you would like to stage a "First Look" moment in advance of your ceremony time, or if you would like to wait until the ceremony to see each other the day of your wedding.

b. If keeping the tradition is important to you, and you would like to wait until the ceremony, just know that you will want to plan for enough time between your ceremony and reception for photos together, with your wedding party and family!



4. SET YOUR CEREMONY + RECEPTION TIME



a. Ask your ceremony venue about the time of day for the best light at your chosen ceremony location. Consider the angle of the sun, or if your wedding party will be in half sun/half shade at the time of the ceremony as this will have a profound impact on how well the ceremony will photograph.

b. Take into account how long your ceremony time will take, the photos you will take after the ceremony and travel time if multiple locations are involved to plan out your entrance time for your reception.

c. If the time between your ceremony and reception will be more than 30 minutes, plan to have a cocktail hour for your guests with some kind of entertainment - live music, photo booth, lawn games, dance lessons.

d. Plan out the order of events for your reception - dinner, toasts, cake cutting, formal dances, bouquet toss, etc.

5. SET YOUR GETTING READY TIME



a. Chat with your makeup artist about how long it will take to complete your bridal look as well as getting your bridal party ready if they are also receiving hair and makeup styling...

Add 20% - NO JOKE!

b. Chat with your photographer about the timing of the photos that you will take before the ceremony. Plan for approximately 20-30 minutes per "segment" of photos - bride & groom portraits, wedding party photos, etc.

c. Factor in how long it will take to get dressed. Some dress styles take a little longer than others. Set an approximate time for getting into your dress and communicate that with whomever you would like to help you get dressed.

6. SETUP: WHO, WHEN & WHERE

a.No matter much you plan to DIY your décor, make sure you have someone else setting it up for you! Ultimately, if you have a coordinator, planner or decorator who will assist with setup, it will help free up any friends or family to enjoy your day and help answer the question of “who is lighting the candles”!

b.A coordinator will also help point other vendors to where and when to set up.



WEDDING TIMELINE

COUPLE:

DATE:

VENUES:

Use this worksheet to keep track of your times as your wedding timeline comes together - things won't always be in chronological order, but once you have most of the details filled in, you can transfer to a chronological timeline

| Time | Event | Details | Time allotted | Responsible Party |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | Ceremony Setup | Arch | | |
| | Location: | Chairs | | |
| | | Décor | | |
| | | Guestbook Table | | |
| | | Floral | | |
| | | Sound Equipment | | |
| | | | | |
| | Reception Setup | Tables + Chairs | | |
| | Location: | Linens | | |
| | | Buffet/Catering | | |
| | | Cake/Desserts | | |
| | | Place Settings | | |
| | | Centerpieces + Décor | | |
| | | Games/Entertainment | | |
| | | | | |
| | Getting Ready | Bride Wardrobe Prep | | |
| | Bridal Location: | Bridal Styling | | |
| | | Bride Getting Dressed | | |
| | | Bridesmaid Styling | | |
| | | Bridesmaids Getting Dressed | | |
| | | | | |
| | Travel: | | | |
| | Groom Location: | Groom Wardrobe Prep | | |
| | | Groom Getting Dressed | | |
| | | Groomsmen Getting Dressed | | |
| | | | | |
| | Travel: | | | |

| Time | Event | Details | Time allotted | Responsible Party |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Pre Ceremony Photos | | | | |
| | | First Look | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Travel: | | | |
| Ceremony | | | | |
| | | Guests Arriving | | |
| | | Ceremony | | |
| | | Receiving Line | | |
| | | Ceremony Exit | | |
| Post Ceremony Photos | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Travel: | | | |
| Cocktail Hour | | | | |
| | Reception | Wedding Party Entrance | | |
| | Reception Events: | Dinner Served | | |
| | | Toasts | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | Grand Exit | | |



WEDDING + PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS

Red Cedar Studios
Spokane Valley, WA
www.redcedar.studio
509-210-2856
info@redcedarstudios.com
[@redcedarspokane](https://www.instagram.com/redcedarspokane)