

# Bride's Checklist

## POST ENGAGEMENT: Congratulations! You're getting MARRIED!

- Settle on a budget. Decide who pays for what
- Start gathering names and addresses for guest list
- Select 2-3 potential dates
- Research venues
- Take engagement photos
- Start thinking about family traditions you would like to include
- Explore vendors for photography/videography, DJ/band/entertainment, caterer, florist

## 12 months out:

- Finalize date
- Reserve ceremony venue and officiant
- Decide on your wedding style: what kind of dress and veil do you want? Begin shopping.
- Research invitations and save-the-date samples
- Choose wedding attendants
- Secure vendors for photography, video, florist, and caterer
- Order invitations/save-the-date

## 9 to 11 months out:

- Decide on a color palate
- Shop with attendants for dresses/tuxes
- Purchase wedding dress
- Start shopping for cakes
- Research honeymoon destinations
- Contact Cheryl Morales, Newport News Tourism ([moralesca@nnva.gov](mailto:moralesca@nnva.gov)) to get help with reserving a block of rooms for out of town guests

## 6 to 8 months out:

- Buy shoes
- Have dress altered
- Book limo
- Research hair/makeup artists
- Order wedding cake
- Set up registry
- Plan & book honeymoon

- Assemble guest list
- Mail save-the-date notices
- Meet with wedding officiant
- Research/order wedding favors
- Choose flowers
- Hire ceremony musician
- Order groom/groomsmen attire

#### **4 to 5 months out:**

- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Purchase wedding rings
- Book wedding night accommodations
- Decide on reception playlist
- Will you need to rent tables/chairs, sound, light equipment?
- Start photograph list for photographer

#### **2 to 3 months out:**

- Send invitations out
- Finalize menu with caterer
- Finalize flowers
- Choose readings & readers
- Confirm ceremony order with celebrant
- Write vows
- Shop for gifts for bridal party
- Order rehearsal dinner invites if using
- Schedule hair/makeup test run
- Purchase rings/size accordingly
- Review playlist with DJ

#### **1 to 2 months out:**

- Check in with vendors for all updates
- Obtain marriage license
- Order wedding programs and thank-you notes
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements

- Track RSVPs as they are returned
- Meet with photographer/videographer to discuss shots you want taken
- Organize cake servers & guest book attendant
- Confirm number of centerpieces, bouquets and boutonnieres with florist
- Final dress fitting

### **2 weeks to 1 month out:**

- Establish seating plan for reception as RSVPs come in
- Mail rehearsal dinner invites
- Pick up rings from jeweler if they needed to be resized
- Make appointment for mani/pedi for day before wedding

### **Week before:**

- Confirm arrival time for vendors
- Send timeline to bridesmaids
- Pick up dress from final fitting
- Send confirmed guest count to caterer
- Finalize vows
- Pack for honeymoon

### **Day before:**

- Give rings/vendor checks to best man for wedding day
- Get Mani/Pedi
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Finalize packing suitcase for honeymoon
- Get a good night's sleep! **YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED TOMORROW!**