

**THE  
WEDDING  
HELP DESK**



*You've Got the Ring*  
**NOW WHAT?**

## Proposal and Planning Guide

## You've Got the Ring - Now What?

Congratulations on taking the step of becoming engaged and a fiancé!

Before we begin, I want to take a moment to acknowledge this exciting milestone in your life. It's always heartwarming to hear about two people finding love and committing to each other.

You are embarking on a new chapter of your life filled with love, joy, and adventure – and I know you will cherish every moment.

I hope that this marks the beginning of a beautiful journey for you and your partner, filled with love, happiness, and countless memories. May you always support and uplift each other as you navigate life together.

I cannot wait to see all the amazing things that your future holds. Best wishes and many congratulations once again!

– Kevin Snow

# You've Got the Ring - Now What?



If you're reading this, it's time to decide which section of this guide is right for you.

Are you still in the midst of planning your perfect proposal, hoping for that magic moment when your partner says "yes" to spending the rest of their life with you?

Or, have you already proposed and received a "yes" from your partner? If so, congratulations! You're well on your way to planning your dream wedding.

Either way, this guide is here to help. From proposal ideas to wedding planning tips, we've got you covered every step of the way. So, let's get started and create the wedding of your dreams!

[I'm proposing: Page 4](#)

["Yes!" has already happened: Page 8](#)



## You've Got the Ring - Now What?

# Nailing the Proposal

- **Planning:** A proposal is a significant moment in your relationship. It's important to take the time to plan it carefully. What does your partner like? How you can create a special and meaningful experience?
- **Pay attention to the details:** If necessary, ask for parent permission. Make sure your/their finger nails look good – you want to present the ring in the best possible way.
- **Timing:** Choose a time that is special to you and your partner. It could be a meaningful date or location, or just a random day that feels right. Make sure you have enough time to plan and prepare, and that your partner is in a good mood and not distracted.
- **Location:** Think about the setting for your proposal. Do you want it to be private and intimate or public and grandiose? Consider your partner's personality and what they would feel most comfortable with.
- **Words:** Prepare what you want to say beforehand, but don't worry about memorizing it word for word. Speak from the heart and be genuine.
- **Capture the moment:** Consider having someone there to take photos or video of the proposal so you can cherish the memory forever.
- **Be flexible:** Remember that things don't always go according to plan. Be prepared for unexpected surprises or obstacles, and be flexible enough to adapt and make the best of the situation.
- **Have fun:** This is a happy occasion, so enjoy the moment and celebrate your love together!



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# Twelve Proposal Ideas

## 1 - 6

- Scavenger hunt: Plan a scavenger hunt with clues that lead your partner to different meaningful locations, where you will be waiting to pop the question.
- Flash mob: Plan a surprise flash mob dance routine with your partner's friends and family, and surprise your partner with a proposal at the end of the performance.
- Memory book: Create a memory book filled with photos and mementos from your time together, and end it with a proposal message and the ring.
- Surprise getaway: Plan a surprise weekend getaway to a romantic location, and propose during a special moment such as a candlelit dinner or sunset stroll.
- Propose during a favorite activity: If your partner has a favorite hobby or activity, incorporate it into your proposal. For example, if your partner loves hiking, propose at the summit of a mountain.
- Plan a romantic picnic and propose during a beautiful sunset or under the stars.

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# Twelve Proposal Ideas

7 - 12

- Arrange for a surprise proposal message to be displayed on a billboard or a marquee at a cinema.
- Hire a professional photographer to capture your proposal moment in a unique setting such as a hot air balloon, a beach, or a vineyard.
- Plan a surprise party with your partner's family and friends, and propose in front of everyone.
- Create a personalized video or song that highlights your relationship and ends with a proposal.
- Recreate a special moment from your relationship, such as the first date, and propose at the same location.
- Hire a private chef to cook a romantic dinner for two at home, and propose during dessert.

**If you document any steps or have photos please share with  
[ask@theweddinghelpdesk.com](mailto:ask@theweddinghelpdesk.com)**

You've Got the Ring - Now What?

## Good Luck!!

Here I am to wish you all the luck in the world as you prepare to pop the question!

This is such an exciting time in your life, and I have no doubt that your proposal will be amazing. Your partner is lucky to have someone as thoughtful and caring as you, and I know that you will create a memory that you will both cherish forever.

Remember to be true to yourself and your relationship, and let your love and affection shine through. I can't wait to hear all about your proposal and the adventures that await you both in the future.

Congratulations, and best wishes for a lifetime of love and happiness!



Popped the question and ready to move forward? Continue reading.

You've Got the Ring - Now What?

## Starting to Plan

As you begin to plan your wedding, remember that this is a time to celebrate your love and commitment to each other. While wedding planning can be overwhelming at times, know that you are not alone in this. This is an opportunity to show your love and support for your partner by being the best fiance you can be.

Communicate openly and honestly with your partner throughout the planning process, and to listen to their needs and wants. Together, you can create a wedding that reflects your unique personalities and celebrates your love story. Don't be afraid to ask for help and support from family and friends, and to delegate tasks as needed.

Most importantly, take care of yourselves and each other during this busy time. Take breaks when you need to, and make time for self-care and quality time together.

Lastly, don't forget to enjoy the journey! This is a special time in your lives, and it's important to savor every moment. The planning can (and should be) just as fun as the wedding, itself. Cherish the memories you make together and keep in mind that your wedding day is just one small part of your lifelong journey together.

I have no doubt that you will be an amazing fiance, and I wish you all the best as you plan your wedding. Congratulations again, and may your love continue to flourish and grow!



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## Being the Best Fiance

On to the good stuff! Now that the question has been answered with a "Yes!" your job isn't over!

In fact, this is your chance to really seal the deal and make the engagement explode with fun!

These steps are the next important stages of planning your wedding.

- Step 1: Determine Your budget**
- Step 2: Pick a Venue & Date – FAST!**
- Step 3: Create a Guest List**
- Step 4: Choose Your Vendors**
- Step 5: Plan Ceremony & Reception**
- Step 6: Send Invitations**

We will take a deeper look at these steps over the next several pages of this guide.

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## Determine Your Budget

In the beginning, the financial comfort zone for your wedding can be a daunting experience. Formulating a number for your budget out of thin air can prove to be unrealistic if you've never purchased a wedding and don't know how much vendors who provide the results you want actually cost.

However, all of the money does not need to be paid upfront. Many of your vendors will require a final payment closer to the date of the wedding.

Depending on the length of your planning process, you could potentially have a year or more to pay for your wedding.

Beginning with a Priority Checklist (found on the next page) is a good start!

You've Got the Ring - Now What?

# Determine Your Budget

## Wedding Priority Checklist

**Rank the Following Aspects of Your Wedding in Order of Importance, then Re-Order Them on the Right.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol	#1 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Attire	#2 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget	#3 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cake	#4 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Decorations / Lighting	#5 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment (DJ/Band)	#6 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers	#7 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Food/Catering	#8 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Count	#9 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeymoon	#10 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Accommodations	#11 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Invitations	#12 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Party Favors	#13 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer	#14 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Shuttle	#15 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Venue	#16 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Videographer	#17 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Planner/Coordinator	#18 _____

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## Determine Your Budget

One of the easiest ways to decrease (or increase) the amount of money spent lies in the number of guests you invite. Invitations, chairs, tables, food/beverage, party favors, etc. will cost per guest. So, if a large guest count is a major priority, expect to see a larger bottom line.

According to The Knot, more than half of all couples who get married spend over budget (on average around \$7k more than planned). An average wedding in South Carolina costs around \$28,000. Keep in mind extra cost (such a gratuities for your vendors).



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## Pick a Venue and Date

This will be one gigantic stress off of your shoulders!

When you find a venue you like, its best to book as quickly as possible. In order to secure the vendors you want, you will need to give them plenty of notice. Otherwise you will find yourself close to your wedding date having to pick a less desirable vendor – potentially less experienced and not the value you were hoping to receive.

To move this along quickly, make sure that when you go to tour a venue that you bring all deciding parties with you...and payment! If a parent is a deciding factor in a venue, make sure they are there so that you don't have to do a second tour. Many venues will give multiple tours on a day – don't let the next tour book the date you want because you weren't ready to pay!

A great industry friend of mine, Didi Russell, dedicates her life to working with venues and has created a venue map of trusted venues across the United States and beyond. You can visit the interactive map here:

<https://weddingvenueowners.com/venue-map-search/>

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## Create a Guest List

This goes back to your budget. How many people do you want to have at your wedding... and why? A percentage of guests will leave just after the cake cutting and before the big dance party begins. If you don't mind feeding people and having them leave early – that's on you!

However, if you're trying to be budget friendly – invite the people who really want to be with you and enjoy your entire wedding so that you aren't spending unnecessary money for people to leave early.

Most couples see 70–80% of their invited guests actually RSVP and attend. There are people you may feel obligated to invite but you should not feel pressured into spending money and inviting someone to your big day out of obligation.

On the note of guest lists...seating charts. If you opt to use a seating chart for dinner, it is easier to organize name alphabetically and place their table number next to their name.

Otherwise you will have guests gathered around the chart looking over each other's shoulders trying to look at each table, hangrily.

## You've Got the Ring - Now What?

# Choose Your Vendors

Venue – Planner – Designer – Catering – Music – Photographer  
– Videographer – Cake – Hair – Make-up –  
Rentals/Decorations – Florist – Planner – Officiant –  
Transportation – Attire – Live Painter – Bartending

WHERE TO BEGIN?  
Go back to the checklist!

Many couples make the mistake of choosing a venue that fits their budget but become "venue broke" which essentially hurts the experience for you and your guests. So, while choosing the venue first is essential, have an idea of which vendors are most important.

It's common for every vendor to think they play a huge part of your day.

"The cake is the centerpiece"

"The photos last forever"

"The video lets moments be relived"

"Everyone only remembers how fun the dancing was"

"The photos are nothing without beautiful florals"

"Etc. etc. etc."

What matters to you? What do you remember most from weddings or events you have attended?

You've Got the Ring - Now What?

# Plan Ceremony and Reception

What time will you be arriving and departing on your wedding day? You will want to have enough time to relax, eat and get ready prior to the ceremony. You also will want to gather up your belongings prior to the ceremony so that you don't have to do it at the end of the night when you are on a "wedding day high" mixed with being tired and ready to leave.

Keep in mind the time of day (and the time of year) when setting your ceremony start time. March and November weddings are subject to daylight savings time.

How long will your ceremony be? Will there be a commute to the reception? These details are important for your vendors to know as well as being on your invitations to your guests.

Using a planner who has previously worked with your venue will help relieve the day-of planning stress. They can help relay these details and transitions to your vendors to make sure everything runs smoothly.



## You've Got the Ring - Now What?

# Send Invitations

It is recommended to first send a "Save the Date" before the formal invitation. Typically, these are sent 6 to 8 months in advance. This is a good rule of thumb so that guests can make work/travel arrangements if needed but not too far off that they forget about the wedding. Not a lot of information needs to be provided to the guests on the Save the Date – simply your names, the date and location will work.

4 months out from the wedding date you can look into sending a formal invitation with additional information regarding times, location of the ceremony and reception, how you would like your guests to dress and include an RSVP card.

You may also be interested in starting a wedding website that can be included with your Save the Date or formal invitation. This can be updated with information you may have forgot or if things change. Links to a wedding registry for gifts can also easily be added here.

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## Trust the Pros

It's not everyday you plan a wedding - so find the wedding professionals you resonate with and trust your wedding pros! These are a few of my own extra pro tips to make your wedding successful:

Remember: Not every wedding has to be the same, because every love story is different.

Pro Tip: Don't try to copy other weddings. Make yours have unique moments to stand out!

Remember: The wedding is about you and your partner.

Pro Tip: Your wedding can be reflective of you - but the party is a celebration and "thank you" to your guests for being a part of your day - keep the guests in mind!

Remember: Wedding professionals are just that - PRO!

Pro Tip: Having a friend or relative work your wedding can cause undue stress and limit the fun. Avoid "Friendors".

Remember: At the end of the day you get to marry your bestfriend and the love of your life.

Pro Tip: Focusing (and obsessing) over small details won't matter when all is said and done. Keep an eye on the prize and enjoy the celebration with each other.

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## Together, You've Got This

In conclusion, planning a wedding is an exciting but sometimes overwhelming task for many – but it doesn't have to be! It's important to remember that at the heart of it all, your wedding is about celebrating your love and commitment to each other.

Whether your wedding is big or small, extravagant or simple, what truly makes it special is the love that you share.

So as you embark on this journey, remember to take it one step at a time, stay true to yourselves and your relationship, and don't be afraid to ask for help and support when you need it. And most importantly, remember to enjoy the process and celebrate the love that brought you here in the first place.

When the big day finally arrives, take a deep breath, relax, and enjoy the celebration of your love surrounded by family and friends.

Congratulations on your engagement, and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling wedding planning process and a lifetime of love and happiness together!

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## About the Author



Kevin Snow is a seasoned wedding DJ who has been providing memorable musical experiences for couples since 2011. As the owner of Twelve Oak Estate, a stunning wedding venue that he acquired in 2018, Kevin has expanded his role in the wedding industry and is dedicated to creating beautiful and unique events for his clients. In addition to his work as a DJ and venue owner, Kevin is also the host of the "Inspire Your Event" podcast, where he shares his insights and expertise on all things wedding-related. He is passionate about helping couples create their dream wedding and is committed to providing exceptional service and support throughout the planning process.

To see Kevin's work and stay up-to-date on his latest projects, follow him on Instagram at @events\_by\_snow and @twelveoakestate