

A WEDDING GUIDE

*because we want it to be your day best
ever.*



Chances are, you're never done this whole wedding thing before. That's why

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

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YOUR WEDDING DAY

THE TIMELINE

One of the most important parts to getting great wedding photos is, boring enough, the timeline. Your wedding day starts hours before guests arrive and it's important to have a detailed plan for everything that will happen before and after the ceremony. It's also important to note that weddings often do not go according to schedule! Having a plan allows us know what we can move around when this happens and how we can adapt. Over the next few pages you'll read about our thoughts and recommendations for laying out your day. Every wedding is different and requires different scheduling due to unique situations, travel time and priorities but we hope this helps you in crafting your timeline!



THE FLOW OF A WEDDING DAY

BRIDAL DETAILS

RECOMMENDED TIME: 15 MIN



After hair, we'll get shots of you getting your makeup done (don't worry, we'll wait until after the foundation). We recommend having the last appointment for hair/makeup so that yours is most fresh. After that it's time to get into your dress! Sometimes at this time brides like to do a "first look" with their bridesmaids. We LOVE this and are always down to capture this sweet moment.

BRIDE PREP

RECOMMENDED TIME: ASK STYLISTS



Most brides love having those beautiful shots of her bridal details. It's an important part of the story and we love getting creative shooting the dress, shoes, invitation, jewelry, etc. We usually arrive half-way through the bride's hair being done, and then normally like to allow 30 minutes for this part of the day. While we're shooting details, we'll also be capturing some shots of the bride and her girls getting ready!

** The bride and bridesmaids hair and makeup is the #1 thing that runs behind at weddings. Allot more time than you think you'll need for this!*

GROOM PREP

RECOMMENDED TIME: 20 MIN



Once you're all ready (or in between make-up and the dress), we'll jet over to where your groom is to photograph him getting ready. If the schedule doesn't permit both of us, Joel will head over and shoot the guys solo. Having the guys and girls get ready in close proximity is very helpful! When we arrive, it's helpful for the groom to have already been showered, hair ready, and have his pants and dress shirt on.

THE FLOW OF A WEDDING DAY

CONTINUED

GROOM + GROOMSMEN

RECOMMENDED TIME: 20 MIN



Every groom wants to look studly with his entourage. During this time we'll also be sure to get photos of each groomsman individually with the groom. One thing that's super important here is that the groomsmen have their boutonnieres on BEFORE we head out to take these pictures.

BRIDE + BRIDESMAID

RECOMMENDED TIME: 20 MIN



These photos are so fun to show off the bride and her best friends! Sammy usually heads this up and brings some hype. During this time we'll also be sure to get photos of each bridesmaid individually with the bride. Bridesmaids will need their bouquets for this!

BRIDE IN HIDING

RECOMMENDED TIME: 30 MIN



We'll want to be sure the bride is out of sight before guests start arriving! This is a great time to do a pre-ceremony prayer, touch-up makeup, or just relax and prepare yourself to walk down that aisle.

THE FLOW OF A WEDDING DAY

CONTINUED

CEREMONY

RECOMMENDED TIME: 30 MIN



We recommend having an unplugged ceremony by asking your guests to not take any photos during the ceremony. This ensures they are focused on what matters and we don't have a bunch of phone screens in your photos! Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass so quickly!

FAMILY PORTRAITS

RECOMMENDED TIME: 20 MIN



Family formals usually take place immediately following the ceremony. While this area of the day is one of the most vulnerable to stress, we like to make this lighthearted and efficient. It's a good idea to let your family members know this will be happening so they're ready. We'll start with the biggest group of people, then photograph smaller groups out of that. More on these later!

FULL BRIDAL PARTY

RECOMMENDED TIME: 15 MIN



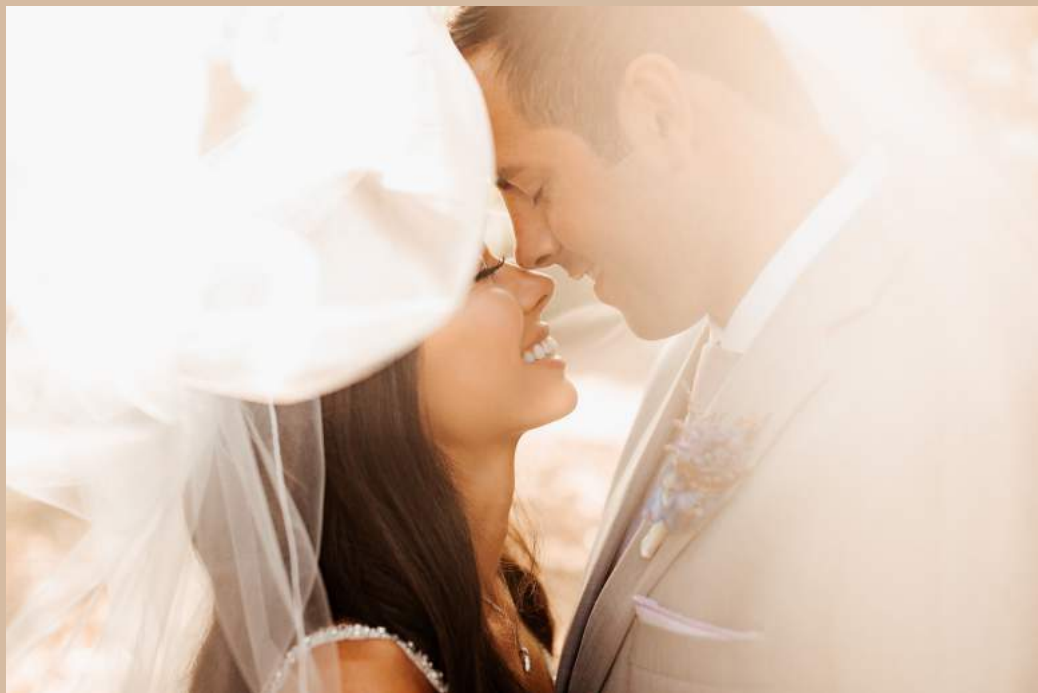
Right after the family photos we'll take your entire bridal party to a space outside with lots of room and take photos of you all together!

THE FLOW OF A WEDDING DAY

CONTINUED

COUPLE PORTRAITS

RECOMMENDED TIME: 25 MIN



This will be a sweet moment where we get to capture the romance of the day between you two. We recommend making sure there is plenty of time for this part of the day since these are the photos you are going to frame in your home and show your grandkids one day. Depending on the time of your ceremony, it's always an option to sneak the two of you out of your reception for some beautiful sunset photos when the light is just right!

RECEPTION DETAILS

RECOMMENDED TIME: 10 MIN



After your portrait session, we'll beat you into the reception hall and take photos of everything you have set up. It's super helpful if during this time your guests are still outside at cocktail hour so they aren't in the background of your decoration shots! This works even better if your reception is set up before your ceremony.

RECEPTION

RECOMMENDED TIME: 3.5 HRS



It's time to celebrate, greet all of your guests, eat a delicious meal, and have the time of your lives! The order of events during the reception doesn't affect our photography very much, so we'll let your DJ take it from here and be sure to capture all the epic dance moves! **TIME TO PARTY.**

ADDITIONAL TIMELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

We've been a part of over 200 weddings, so we know how long things usually take.

When you're crafting a wedding timeline, the best advice we can give is to add cushion time! Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes and then all of a sudden you're stressing about the timeline being off. It's a good idea to add an extra 5 minutes here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with! You also don't want to be rushing from one event to the next. Having time built in to relax, soak in the moments, laugh with your gals, make a toast with your dudes is so so important because the day is obviously about so much more than just getting pretty pictures of everything. You want to remember the moments. Also, be sure to take into account travel time to, from, and in between your getting-ready locations and your venue.

It's a good idea to keep your bridal party and family in the know with the timeline. As the bride and groom, you don't want to have to be telling people where they need to be and when. This is something for a maid of honor and best man to take care of for you. Our goal is that you never have to worry about what time it is all day! We recommend sending the final timeline to your maid of honor and best man days before the wedding day. They could even print it out and bring it to the wedding so that the entire bridal party will know what's next and doesn't have to ask you.

WE ARE HAPPY TO WORK WITH YOU TO CREATE THE PERFECT WEDDING DAY
TIMELINE!



Better Together

EXTRA EVENTS

GIVING BRIDAL PARTY GIFTS 5 MINS	5 MIN
BRIDE GETTING INTO DRESS, JEWELRY, SHOES, ETC.	15 MIN
OPENING BRIDE/GROOM WEDDING GIFTS	7 MIN
FATHER/DAUGHTER FIRST LOOK	7 MIN
BRIDESMAIDS REVEAL	5 MIN
FIRST LOOK	15 MIN
FIRST TOUCH	10 MIN
SUNSET PHOTOS	15 MIN

1:00- 28 North arrives

1:00- Detail Photos

2:00- Bride's Hair and Makeup Complete

2:00- Groom Gets into Suit

2:20- Groom/Groomsmen Photos

2:45- Bride Gets into Dress

3:00- Bridesmaid Reveal

3:15- Bride/Bridesmaid Photos

3:45- Hide the Bride

4:30- Ceremony

5:00- Ceremony Ends

5:05- Family Photos

5:25- Bridal Party Photos

5:40- Bride/Groom Portraits

6:10- Reception

10:00- Grand Exit

FIRST LOOKS

The age old question: *Should we do a first look?!*
We get asked this question a lot. A lot of photographers would 100% tell you first looks are the way to go. Sure there are alot of pros to first looks, but we believe they're not for everyone. We opted not to do a first look and Joel bawled his eyes out when he saw Sammy coming down the aisle! And we wouldn't change a thing. So talk it over and decide what feels best for *you*.



Joel when Sammy came down the aisle



FIRST LOOKS

CONTINUED

PROS:

- It calms the nerves. There is nothing that relaxes nervous brides and grooms more than finally seeing each other and enjoying a few moments alone before the official events begin.
- It gives you time to take it all in. You can share what you're feeling, you can hug, you can actually say "wow you look incredible in that dress" - all things you can't do when you're at the front of the aisle with everyone watching.
- It makes the timeline easier to work with. If you can see each other before the ceremony, we can do all family portraits and bridal party photos before too. Your family can go enjoy the cocktail hour right after the ceremony, and we can get to couple portraits right away.

CONS:

- That moment isn't quite the same. If you've always imagined your groom's face as you come down the aisle, you probably imagined it being the first time he sees you.
- Light is everything in photography. The light is best closest to sunset, which is almost always after the ceremony. Near the middle of the day the light is harsh so we'll be somewhat limited to where we can take photos. For this reason, we always recommend first look couples to give us at least 15 minutes for portraits of them after the ceremony.

DAY-OF REMINDERS

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU'LL WANT TO KEEP IN MIND AND PREP A FEW DAYS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING DAY.



ALL THE DETAILS

The whole day begins with the *details*. This is one of our favorite parts of the day because it allows us to prepare and get our creative side warmed up for the rest of the day. We try and photograph the bride's details in a way that matches and showcases the style of the entire wedding day. To the right you'll find a list of the most common details we shoot - if there's anything else you have, we'd be happy to shoot it, just tell us! We ask brides to have the details gathered before we arrive so we can get right to it when we get there. And don't worry, we'll take great care of your dress! It also helps to have some greenery or flowers we can use, and an interesting hanger for your dress!

GATHER THE GOODS

The best way to make sure you don't have to worry about finding everything once we get there the morning of your wedding is to pack a box or bag the day before. It's a good idea to leave your maid of honor in charge of this box so when we arrive on your wedding day she can simply give us the box and we'll have all the things we need to start taking pics (no frantically running around trying to find things while you're in the middle of getting your hair done!).

These are the things we recommend gathering:

DRESS
VEIL
HAIRPIECE
RINGS (ALL THREE)
WEDDING SHOES
EARRINGS
BRACELET
NECKLACE
PERFUME
GARTER
INVITATION SUITE

Having extra things on hand makes a huge difference here. To spice up these pictures and make sure they're creative and fit with your vision, we recommend getting these things in advance to go along with your wedding pieces:

BRIDAL HANGER
EXTRA FLOWERS/GREENERY
RIBBONS THAT MATCH YOUR COLORS
(DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND SIZES)
UNIQUE RING BOX
(VELVET AND WOODEN ARE GREAT OPTIONS)
VINTAGE STAMPS
WAX SEAL STAMP
VOWS BOOKS
DENIM/LEATHER BRIDE JACKET
FUNKY CLUTCH





- AIRBNB

Small hotel rooms aren't the best, for light or decor. We recommend other options, like a cute AirBnB. There are tons of affordable ones out there!

- WINDOWS PLEASE !

Window light is best. We prefer to turn all lights off and rely only on window light whenever possible! So be sure and sit right by the biggest window when getting your hair and makeup done.

- BRIDE GOES LAST

We recommend the bride's hair/makeup be last so that hers stays fresh. This also ensures she'll be getting it done while we're there so we can photograph it!

- GETTING READY FASHION

There are so many fun options for the bride and her bridesmaids to wear while getting ready and it really does make a difference in the photos. Take a look online and find something that you feel like you in and go for it. This is also a sweet gift for the bridesmaids. We've seen anything from floral robes to classy pj's and everything in between.



- TRADE SECRET

Often times we will wait until the bride's makeup and hair are completely done and then we will photograph the "touch ups" being done. This way you don't have foundation on half of your face while we're taking pictures (you'll thank us later).

- KEEP CLUTTER AWAY

We know there's a lot going on, but try to keep bags, suitcases, steamers, etc. in a different room or shove it all in a closet. We just want to make sure there's not a random McDonald's cup in the background of your elegant makeup photos.

- THINK AHEAD

Do you want to share a reveal with your bridesmaids, dad, or any other person who plays a huge role in your life? Will you and your groom be exchanging gifts or letters during this time? Are there certain women you want to help you get into your dress? Some brides want very few people around during this moment and others want the whole gang there to witness it... it's totally up to you! Be sure to put any jewelry on after your dress because we love to photograph this.

- DON'T FORGET THE GROOM!

Sometimes the groom and groomsmen get the dark tiny room. Let's give them some love as well! When we arrive to him, he should already have his suit pants on and have everything else ready to be put on. And make sure he has a room with great light to get ready in too.



THE FATHER/DAUGHTER FIRST LOOK

This is for all the brides who have a sweet spot in their hearts for their dad. When they happen, it's definitely one of our favorite moments of the day. For a lot of dads, this is when everything gets real for them. "My baby girl is getting MARRIED!" we hear. These are precious moments to photograph and we recommend any girl that's close with her dad to make time for this moment. It doesn't take long at all and doesn't have to be a big show! The hardest part is just making sure dad shows up on time (and is dressed). If dad doesn't show up on time, the whole timeline can be thrown off or we'll have to skip the moment. But it's worth a shot!



THE CEREMONY

It's here! The moment everyone's been waiting for! The music is playing and the guests have been seated. Ushers make their way to the back of the aisle and the coordinator is lining up the bridesmaids while giving the musicians a 5-minute warning. The bride is about to walk down the aisle to the love of her life... And if she's like most girls, she's dreamed of this moment for a long time! Vows will be shared and promises will be made- this is what it's all about! In a world full of wedding blogs, Pinterest, and bridal magazines, it's easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the "prettiness" of the event. While details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day!!

LIGHTING

Ceremony lighting is really important for photos. If you get married outside at 12pm, the lighting will be extremely harsh and not only will there be harsh shadows of light on your faces, you will also be squinting. We suggest planning an outdoor ceremony 2 hours before sunset to ensure you have plenty of time for all the portraits after the ceremony (plus we can always sneak you two out during the reception for some intimate couple portraits). The lower the sun, the more romantic the lighting. If you are having an indoor ceremony, it is always important to have EVEN lighting at the altar. It's best to have soft, even light all across the altar. Try to avoid having multi-colored spotlights beaming down on you!



*Unplugged ceremonies are very common these days and we 10/10 recommend them! Not only does it help your guests be present, but it keeps their iPhones out of our photos (you'd be surprised what people will do to get that perfect iPhone shot these days)! We recommend having your officiant make this announcement before the processional begins.

COORDINATION

Hiring either a full event planner or at least just a day-of coordinator is SO important!! We could not be bigger advocates when it comes to this. As a bride, you will quickly realize that if you do not have someone in charge of coordinating the day, that responsibility will either fall on your mom, maid of honor, the photographer, or YOU.

As your photographers, we want our full focus to be on you two and getting the best possible photos of the entire day. If we have to divert attention away from that and on to coordinating, your photos might not be all they could be. Plus, we want you and all your family to enjoy this day and not have to worry about the logistics. If you need a recommendation on wedding coordination services, we'd love to share some of our favorites with you!

FAMILY PORTRAITS

We love meeting couple's families on the wedding day. Family formals are sometimes our first interaction with many of them so we love to have a game-plan for this part of the day! A few weeks before your wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire from us that asks for a list of what family formals you want us to capture. We recommend limiting these shots to only ones you know you will care about later on so that we better can take advantage of great light for your romantic portraits. Any large family formals we don't get after the ceremony we can get at the reception! Also, if you're getting married in a dimly lit church, we recommend taking all able-bodied family members outside for the optimal light.

- ENLIST HELP

It's important to have someone to gather people coordinate for the family shots. We don't know what everyone looks like, and we'll be taking photos, so this task isn't for us! If you have a coordinator, they should handle this. If not, find one of your friends who can get things done and have them be in charge of gathering family members. This part of the day can get stressful so it's important to enlist help!



- KEEP IT SHORT

We recommend keeping the list short. You two are in every shot, and you'll be sick of smiling for that many shots! Plus the longer the list the less time we have for portraits. Allot 20 minutes for this.

- OFFICIANT ANNOUNCEMENT

After the ceremony, your officiant will probably announce to guests where to go for the cocktail hour. Please also have him announce for all family members to stay for photos at this time as well! This helps ensure we won't have to send someone to go find Aunt Bertha!

RECOMMENDED LIST FOR

FAMILY PORTRAITS

B&G with Bride's Extended family
B&G with Bride's Grandparents
B&G with Bride's Immediate Family
B&G with Bride's Parents
B&G with Bride's Siblings
Bride with Parents
Bride with Mom
Bride with Dad

B&G with Groom's Extended family
B&G with Groom's Grandparents
B&G with Groom's Immediate Family
B&G with Groom's Parents
B&G with Groom's Siblings
Groom with Parents
Groom with Mom
Groom with Dad



RECEPTION

NOUN: THE TIME AND PLACE YOU PARTY

Receptions are a blast. Your coordinator, DJ/band, and caterer will all play a big role in the design and set up of the event, so talk with them about how you can plan it in a way that will keep a good flow. When it comes to details, the more decorations that show off the you and are unique to your style the better! This can definitely enhance the excitement of the event. Repurposing decorations and florals from your ceremony will help keep costs down too.

Just like the ceremony, you have the freedom to make the reception your own! It's your party, make it how you want! Here's how we recommend ordering the events of your reception to keep things flowing:

01. BRIDAL PARTY INTROS
02. B&G FIRST DANCE
03. MOTHER/SON FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCES

04. (BRIEF) WELCOME SPEECH
05. BLESSING
06. DINNER

07. TOASTS
08. CAKE CUTTING
09. ANNIVERSARY DANCE

10. OPEN DANCE FLOOR
11. BOUQUET & GARTER TOSS
12. BRIDE AND GROOM EXIT



Spice Up Your RECEPTION

We've seen a lot of receptions and people have the craziest ideas, but we've learned the crazier the better! Here's some things you could incorporate into your reception that can really add some hype!

WIGS
GLOW STICKS
CONFETTI
LED FOAM STICKS
RENT A RAD GETAWAY CAR



THE ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago you had to order prints of the images you wanted to keep forever. That isn't how we work around here! We want you to have all of your memories in your possession forever. We also want you to share your images freely and without hesitation. This is why we deliver your images via an online gallery! This means that you don't have to wait for a package in the mail and you'll have access to them wherever you are.

- You'll be able to download all of your photos at one time and they will be full resolution.
- When you open your online gallery for the first time, there will be a virtual tour that's really helpful to click through as there are some cool features!
- You can order professional quality prints directly from the gallery. We highly recommend this. However, you are also more than welcome to have the images printed anywhere you'd like.

- Your gallery will not expire from the internet for 10 years! Isn't that amazing? We do recommend going ahead and downloading them and saving them yourselves as well.
- We have never watermarked an image in our lives. We want you to share your images in their best looking state! All we ask is that when you share your images you give us some sort of photo credit. This is very helpful to our business!

QUESTIONS? CALL JOEL.

Seriously. 407-415-5690.

DON'T EVEN HESITATE! WE'RE MORE THAN
HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU
STILL MIGHT HAVE BECAUSE WE WANT
YOUR WEDDING TO BE THE BEST. AND WE
WANT YOU TO ENJOY THE PLANNING
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.



EMAIL:
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Thank You

FOR TRUSTING US WITH YOUR BEST
DAY EVER.

We are so honored to be a part of this journey with you and we cannot wait to celebrate alongside you. We hope you enjoy this season of planning but also remember that your marriage is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go but your marriage will last forever. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact us with *any* questions you may have along the way. About one month before the wedding, you'll receive an online questionnaire that will provide us with everything we need to know for your big day. We hope this guide has been helpful to you as you continue to plan and prepare for your best day ever.

- Joel + Sammy