

Getting Started

- Discuss finances with everyone contributing to the event and set the budget
 - *Determine budget and how expenses will be shared
 - Tip:* The Grooms Parents Take Care of the Rehearsal Dinner Costs.
- Set the Date and Ceremony Location
 - *At the Jackson Estate, we can host the ceremony and reception or simply the reception. We do not host a ceremony only.
- Establish a guest list
- Start thinking about the style and theme of your wedding
 - Tip:* Keep your vision realistic according to budget and timing.
 - *We specialize in theme events, so let your mind run loose! Let us help!
- Start shopping for a gown
- Announce your engagement
- Select a date for your wedding
- Determine the type of wedding you want: location, formality, time of day, number of guests, etc.
- Consolidate all guest list: bride's, groom's, bride's family, groom's family, and organize as follows:
 1. Those who must be invited
 2. Those who should be invited
 3. Those who it would be nice to invite
- Select maid of honor, best man, bridesmaids and ushers (apox. One usher per 50 guest)
- Decide if you want to include children among guest
 - *At the Jackson Estate children are the same price as the adult meal
- Select and reserve ceremony site
- Select and reserve officiant
- Select and book photographer
- Determine your color scheme
 - Tip:* Go to your local hardware store and pick out paint chips so that everyone knows your colors!
- Select and order your bridal gown, headpiece and bridesmaids gown
- Order passport, visa or birth certificate, if needed for your honeymoon or marriage license.
- Order wedding rings.

6-9 months before

- Mail out Save-the-Dates
- Interview and book your vendors
 - Tip:* Don't forget to get signed contract
- Choose your attendants; shop for their dresses
- Order stationery
- Start looking for honeymoon locales.
- Register for gifts
- Send engagement forms with photo to local newspaper
- Select bridal registries and register
- Have mothers select their dresses and schedule fittings
- Complete guest list with names and addresses
- Select and book wedding florist
- Select and book videographer
- Select and book DJ / Band for the Ceremony and/or Reception
 - Tip:* I have found that the Groom likes to choose the DJ. If you feel like your groom is being a bit left out. Have him look into finding the DJ
- Plan honeymoon

4-6 months before

- Book your hair/makeup help
- Plan the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Shop for wedding bands
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for your guest
 - Tip:* Remember to book these blocks of rooms ahead of time especially during a Norte Dame game weekend!
 - * Super 8
209 McDonald Drive Rochester, IN 46975
(800) 454-3213
 - *Comfort Inn
289 McDonald Drive Rochester, In 46975
(574) 223-7300
- Finalize your honeymoon plans
- Choose and order invitations and other personalized paper products
- Choose cake design and baker
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests

2-4 months before

- Buy attendant's gifts
- Get men's fashions in order
- Choose readings/music for the ceremony
- Check marriage-license requirements
- Finalize Menu and drinks with The Jackson Estate
 - * Jackson Estate does not allow outside catering with the exception of the wedding cake, you are allowed to choose your own baker
- Order the cake
- Pick out wedding favors
- Book rehearsal dinner location
- Confirm details with hired professionals and have all contracts signed
- Have bridal fitting
- Check marriage license requirements

4-8 months before

- Mail out your invites
- Do a hair/makeup run-through
- Discuss bank account changes you'll need to make
- Send ceremony programs, reception menu and place cards to be printed
- Mail invitations. Supply guests with map if needed.
- Pick out and buy groom's and attendants' gifts.
- Keep record of RSVPs.
- Final dress fitting
- Confirm rehearsal date, time and place with everyone who is involved

2-4 months before

- Confirm details with your vendors
- Get your final dress fitting
- Apply for marriage license
- Finalize ceremony music selections
- Have someone contact guest who have not responded
- Meet with photographer and videographer to finalized pictures you want taken

- Contact band/DJ, giving them a list of special songs you want played and when

1 week before

- Give the Jackson Estate the final head count
- Pick up your dress
 - Tip: Break in your shoes!
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Organize your payments and decide who will distribute them

1 day before

- Get a mani-pedi
- Enjoy the rehearsal dinner
- Get plenty of sleep
- If you are bringing your own can beverage, make sure you check in with the person who was assigned to bring it.
- If you are bringing ice, make sure you have who is assigned to bring it in the morning
- If you are bringing a keg make sure you bring cups'

Your wedding day

- Don't forget rings and marriage license
- If you were to bringing your own beverages, be sure to have your ice, cups
- Relax and enjoy!

After the reception

Assign someone to:

- Take the bouquet and have it preserved
- Take gifts and wedding cards to a safe place.
- Take top cake layer to freeze it
- Collect cake knife, server, toasting glasses,
- Rental attire

TIP: At the Jackson Estates, we know you are tired at the end of the reception, you are allowed to come back the following morning to collect the rest of your belongings!