

Congratulations You're Engaged! Now What?

It is time to get organized and prioritize!

- **Pick a date**, not just one, but several options- especially if you have your heart set on a location
- **Review finances** with your fiancé and families- Budget affects *EVERYTHING!*
 - Are you and your fiancé paying for the wedding yourselves?
 - Will the bride's parents be paying? Traditional Way
 - Will both families be contributing?
- **Create a guest list!** This will affect your location & budget
 - Consider your wedding party as well!
- **Location, Location, Location!** Your budget and guest list will determine your options for location.
 - Will you have a church wedding?
 - Would you like the ceremony & reception at the same location?
 - Do you want a destination wedding with a smaller guest list?
 - Consider the time of year, weather and style/theme of the event
- **Dress shopping!** It can be fun or miserable depending on YOU!
 - Start looking online or in magazines for styles and silhouettes that you think you may be interested in and bring ideas to your appointment
 - Consider location and season of the year when looking at styles and types of fabric- Velvet in the summer is not going to be fabulous!
 - Be careful bringing too big of an entourage! It can actually create confusion or a feeling of being overwhelmed.
 - In your **dress budget**, DO NOT forget to include undergarments, shoes, veil and alterations- *Home Ex Express can provide all your alterations, styling and custom sewing needs!*
 - *Be open-minded* to trying styles that are out of your comfort zone, buying off the rack, or getting creative!
 - *Plan ahead*- if you need to order your dress, it can take 6 to 9 months!
- **Determine if you will have a Wedding/Event Coordinator**
 - Full-Service or Day of Coordinator based on your budget
 - Does the venue require you to use their coordinator and/or vendors?
 - *Home Ec Express can offer Day of Coordinating- JUST ASK!*

- **Book your Caterer!** You have many options, and your budget will affect how you determine feeding your guests
 - Does the venue require you to use their preferred vendors?
 - Do you have family/friends who may BBQ?
 - Sit-Down, Buffet or Family Style meal?

- **Beverages-** it deserves it's own conversation!
 - Are you having alcohol for your guests?
 - What are the rules for your venue?
 - Non-Alcoholic only, Beer & Wine or Full Bar? Open or No-Host Bar?
 - Do you need a licensed bartending service?

- **Dessert-** Is it just cake??
 - Traditional Wedding cake?
 - Dessert Bar? A smorgasbord of dessert? SIGN ME UP!
 - Donuts? Pie? Cookies? So many choices besides the traditional!

- **Photography-** Engagement and wedding
 - Do you also want videography?
 - What kind of packages are available?
 - Do you have a friend who is talented who can be your photographer?

- **Rentals-** Start with your venue
 - Does the venue provide tables, chairs and dance floor?
 - Do you need to rent catering or bar equipment?

- **Flowers, Decor and more-** Beyond looking on Pinterest!
 - Friend, Family or Florist?
 - Boutonnieres, bouquets, centerpieces and so much more!
 - Consider the season in which flowers are available- importing off-season will COST MORE!
 - Wedding favors/Take-home gifts?
 - Thank you gifts for the bridal party

- **Entertainment-** So many choices and ideas
 - DJ, Band, or friend with an i-Pad?
 - Photobooth? Outdoor games? Cocktail Hour?
 - Activities for young children?

- Once you have your important vendors booked, it is time to work on your timeline if you are planning on your own, or if you are using a full service wedding coordinator, they will guide you through the entire process!