



YOUR DREAM WEDDING

Planning **CHECKLIST**

A month-by-month roadmap from “we’re engaged” to “I do,”
with tips from our wedding team.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY STONEWALL RESORT

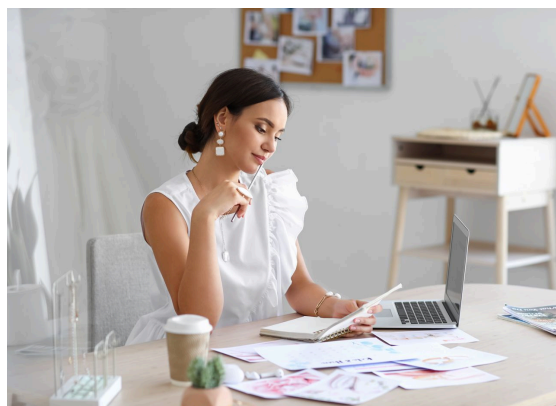


Congratulations, YOU'RE ENGAGED!

From choosing the venue to sending invitations and every detail in between, planning a wedding can feel like a lot. You're not doing it alone.

Whether you're planning an intimate gathering, a lavish celebration or something entirely your own, this checklist from the team at Stonewall Resort breaks the work into manageable steps so you can plan with confidence.

You've got this!



THE WEDDING OF

OUR WEDDING DATE

YOUR TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

	PHASE	TASKS	FINISH BY
01	12 Months Before	10 tasks	
02	10–11 Months Before	4 tasks	
03	8–9 Months Before	3 tasks	
04	6–7 Months Before	5 tasks	
05	4–5 Months Before	5 tasks	
06	2–3 Months Before	4 tasks	
07	1 Month Before	4 tasks	
08	Week Of	4 tasks	
09	Day Before & Wedding Day	3 tasks	
10	After the Wedding	7 tasks	

Tip: count back from your wedding date and write a finish-by date for each phase. Prefer it done for you? The online version of this checklist builds your countdown automatically.

12 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Take the Wedding Style Quiz** Discover the style that fits you best.
- ☐ **Set your budget** Decide how much to spend and how costs will be shared.
- ☐ **Tour venues** Research and visit ceremony and reception spaces.
- ☐ **Choose a date** Hold one or more possible dates with your venue.
- ☐ **Start the guest list** An estimated head count guides your venue choice.
- ☐ **Decide on a planner** Consider whether a wedding planner is right for you.
- ☐ **Book your officiant** Secure the person who will marry you.
- ☐ **Create a wedding website** Keep details organized for guests and your wedding party.
- ☐ **Set up a wedding email address** Keep vendor and RSVP mail in one place; share the login with your partner.
- ☐ **Start an inspiration board** Pinterest or a notebook to share your vision with vendors.

FINDING YOUR VENUE AND DATE

- **Avoid big holidays and personal dates** that could compete with your day.
- **Think about guests' calendars.** Busy work seasons and summer travel affect who makes it.
- **Ask about off-peak pricing.** Weekdays, certain months and times of day can bring real savings.

STRETCH YOUR BUDGET

- Choose a **midweek date**, when venues may offer lower rates.
- Serve **elegant desserts or heavy hors d'oeuvres** instead of a full-course meal.
- Work closely with your **venue's wedding coordinator**; they know where to save.
- Send **digital invitations** with RSVP tracking.

BUILDING YOUR WEDDING WEBSITE

- Pick a builder with wedding templates, such as Zola, The Knot or Minted.
- Add your story, event details, travel and room-block info.
- Turn on online RSVPs, link your registries and password-protect the site.

10-11 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Book key vendors** Photographer, videographer and entertainment book up first.
- ☐ **Start attire shopping** Begin trying on wedding dresses, suits or both.
- ☐ **Schedule engagement photos** Great for save-the-dates and your website.
- ☐ **Choose your wedding party** Pick the people you want beside you.

ATTIRE AND ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS

- **Keep an open mind** and try styles you wouldn't normally pick.
- **Let the venue guide you.** A lakeside lawn and a ballroom call for different looks.
- **Budget for alterations**, which can be significant.
- **Shoot engagement photos somewhere meaningful**, ideally with your wedding photographer.

8-9 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Reserve a room block** Hold rooms for out-of-town guests, often at a group rate.
- ☐ **Choose wedding party attire** Pick styles and colors your party will feel good in.
- ☐ **Register for gifts** Choose two or three stores or funds that fit your life.

REGISTRY TIPS

- **Start early** so guests have options for showers and parties.
- **Mix price points** across two or three retailers.
- **Register for your real life**, including experiences or a honeymoon or home fund.
- **Check return policies** and send thank-you notes promptly.

6-7 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Order invitations** Include every detail guests need, in your theme and colors.
- ☐ **Plan the honeymoon** Book travel and check passports if heading abroad.
- ☐ **Book transportation** For you, your party and guests moving between locations.
- ☐ **Book ceremony musicians** Live music books up early.
- ☐ **Finalize your attire** Purchase or rent attire and accessories for both of you.

INVITATION TRENDS

- **Eco-friendly paper**, plantable seed paper or fully digital invitations.
- **Minimal designs** with clean type and white space.
- **Mixed media** like vellum, wax seals and ribbon.
- **QR codes** linking to your website or a video message.

4-5 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Finalize menu and service** Lock in your reception menu and note dietary needs.
- ☐ **Order the cake or an alternative** Taste, then pick a design and flavors.
- ☐ **Buy wedding rings** Leave time for sizing or custom work.
- ☐ **Prepare invitations to mail** Send them 6–8 weeks out.
- ☐ **Plan the rehearsal dinner** Location, guest list and menu.

WEDDING CAKE ALTERNATIVES

- **Dessert bar** with cookies, macarons and pastries.
- **Pie station** for a rustic, seasonal feel.
- **Donut wall, gelato cart** or **cupcake tower**.
- **S'mores station** around a fire pit; Stonewall's lakeside fire pits make it easy.

2-3 MONTHS BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Confirm vendor details** Times, locations and any special requests.
- ☐ **Book hair and makeup trials** Finalize your wedding-day look.
- ☐ **Write your vows** If you're writing your own, start drafting now.
- ☐ **Get your marriage license** Check your local requirements and timing.

1 MONTH BEFORE

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Final fitting** Make sure everything fits perfectly.
- ☐ **Confirm guest count** Give your final number to the caterer and venue.
- ☐ **Create the seating chart** Arrange tables and make place cards.

- ☐ **Pack for the honeymoon** Especially if you leave right after.

SEATING CHART TIPS

- **Use a digital tool** to move guests around and see the room.
- **Group guests by how they know you**, then build tables.
- **Everyone should know at least one person** at their table.
- **Plan for special needs**, like older guests near exits.
- Decide on a **head, sweetheart or family table** early.

WEEK OF

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Final vendor confirmations** Check in and make last-minute adjustments.
- ☐ **Prepare payments and tips** Envelopes ready for anyone paid on the day.
- ☐ **Hold the rehearsal** Walk through the ceremony with everyone involved.
- ☐ **Rest** Sleep well and enjoy the lead-up.

DAY BEFORE & WEDDING DAY

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Host the rehearsal dinner** Hand out wedding party gifts.
- ☐ **Pack a day-of bag** Essentials, touch-up kit and anything you can't forget.
- ☐ **Breathe and enjoy** Follow your schedule, then let it go and be present.

AFTER THE WEDDING

Finish by _____

- ☐ **Send thank-you notes** Within three months, personalized for each gift.
- ☐ **Review your vendors** Help future couples and say thanks.
- ☐ **Preserve your attire** Professional cleaning keeps a gown from yellowing.
- ☐ **Wrap up the registry** Handle any returns or exchanges.
- ☐ **Sort photos and video** Share galleries and order prints or an album.
- ☐ **Update your name, if changing** Social Security, license, passport, banks and online accounts.
- ☐ **Reflect together** Look back on the day and talk about what comes next.

WEDDING NOTES

Set amid nearly 2,000 acres of rolling West Virginia mountains, Stonewall Resort's Adirondack-style lakeside lodge hosts indoor and outdoor ceremonies, receptions and dinners with award-winning service, just minutes from the interstate. Recently named The Knot Best of Weddings and Here Comes the Guide's Best Appalachian Mountains Wedding Venue (2024).

Contact our wedding team ›



STONEWALL
RESORT

CONTACT

contact.stonewallresortevents.com

PHONE

(304) 269-7400

ROOM BLOCKS

(888) 278-8150

ADDRESS

940 Resort Drive, Roanoke, WV 26447