



Sierra Lakes Golf Club Wedding Planning Guide



You've got a dream in mind and Sierra Lakes can make it all come true!

Of all the events that happen in your lifetime, your wedding will be the most romantic. And you've probably been dreaming about what that wedding should be like all your life. Since the time you were a child, you've had probably had fantasies about it - what you and the attendants will wear, the magic scenery of the spot where you'll say your vows, the delicious cuisine that your guests will eat, the flowers, the music.

We'd like to invite you to consider Sierra Lakes Golf Club as the place where all those exciting plans can become reality.

Is there a More Romantic Location in California for a Wedding Reception?

Sierra Lakes offers beautiful views and a tranquil setting.

Organizing your special day begins with your input and your list of what you need and want to make your day special. We can accommodate small weddings and large weddings. We can even add unique special touches. You tell us what you want and we make it happen - greatly reducing your stress level on what is supposed to be the most wonderful day of your life!



At least one senior member of staff from Sierra Lakes (usually yours truly) will be on-site for the actual day of the wedding to make sure that everything goes according to plan. This means that you can enjoy the day, the dancing, and the special time with friends and family.

As you begin to "scout" locations for your wedding reception and your civil ceremony (if you are not having a religious ceremony), you are probably just beginning the planning process for your wedding. And you are probably beginning to understand the full scale of the organizational mountain you are starting to climb. Organizing a wedding makes building an aircraft carrier look easy. Organizing a wedding makes landing a jumbo jet seem simple. Organizing a wedding makes brain surgery look like a walk in the park.

That's why, at Sierra Lakes, we make the organizational part of the wedding reception planning equation easy and painless. We call it the Sierra Lakes Wedding Advantage. Our goal is to make the wedding day so easy that all you have to do is show up with your friends, family, (and groom, of course) and get ready for a frolicking good time. I've been helping brides organize their special day for many years and it's a lot of fun to make a bride's special day just that...special.

How do I do it? By providing peace of mind that all your arrangements are organized and that all the key people are ready to go.

At many wedding reception locations, you'll find that you have to follow a set plan. Set menus. Set entertainment options. Set this, and set that. At Sierra Lakes, we have suggested menus and a suggested list of suppliers, like DJs and bands. Ultimately, however, we are totally flexible and leave the final decisions up to you and your family. Then we get to work and make the whole thing happen while you work on other wedding details like guest lists and honeymoon locations! Why not email me with some of your ideas and let's get started? Remember, the choices are up to you. Perhaps you're a lifelong vegetarian and want a vegetarian menu. It's up to you!

Although the ceremony will last only an hour at most and the reception just a few hours, the planning may take much longer and require more hard work and even frustration and tears more than you could ever imagine. Working with our gracious Sierra Lakes staff, though, we will ensure that your big day will run smoothly and successfully. We can lighten your tasks and make your wedding a fabulous experience.

But in the end you'll accomplish your goal: to create the perfect wedding, a scene of whimsy, imagination and excitement and you'll fashion memories that you'll treasure for a lifetime. Be sure to call our food and beverage manager soon to find out all the details about celebrating the most important day of your life at Sierra Lakes Golf Club.

To get you started on your planning, this brief guide to weddings tells you how to go about the task and offers ideas for how to make the process go more smoothly.

"I had the perfect wedding & reception at Sierra Lakes Golf Club! The Wedding Garden views are wonderful, the service is First Class. Allison & her staff did a great job. The food was wonderful & my guests were very impressed!" Kathy D.



Your Wedding Checklist

Now that you're engaged, you're probably already frazzled over what happens next and when. That's why we've provided the following timeline to help you in your preparations. The optimal amount of time for planning a wedding is at least a year, but if you are in hurry, you can handle a wedding in less time.

Nine to 12 Months before the Wedding

- Set a date and time for your wedding.
- Decide what the style will be for your ceremony and reception: big or small, for example; formal or more relaxed? Will you have outdoor as well as indoor activities? At the Sierra Lakes we offer you ideas for all these possibilities. We offer large and small reception spaces, formal and more relaxed.
- Set a budget for what you want to spend and decide who will pay for what.
- Begin tracking your expenses.
- Start visiting possible locations for ceremony and reception: country clubs, churches, hotels, and other places. Find out what their calendars are like and book the date you want with ceremony and reception sites.
- Our schedule at the Sierra Lakes fills up quickly, so don't hesitate to call and find out what dates are open. Our most popular months are April through October, but weddings can be held



with us at any time of the year. We will be happy to give you a tour of our wedding and reception sites.

- You'll also want to start checking on the availability of local accommodations for your out of town guests. We work with several local hotels and will be glad to assist you.
- Request menu packages and price lists from possible caterers or from the culinary staff at your reception site.
- Determine the number of guests you want to invite. Start writing your guest list with the help of your families; think about who must be invited vs. guests who would be nice to invite.
- Choose your wedding attendants.
- Select a color scheme for the wedding. Decide on the color and style of clothing for your attendants and find out their sizes.
- Begin thinking about a honeymoon location. Check on passports and birth certificates if needed for your honeymoon or to secure a marriage license.

Six to Nine Months before the Wedding

- Finalize reception arrangements. Check on any cancellation clauses before you commit to a contract. At our facility we will go over all the details of your contract with you, including any cancellation clauses before you sign.
- Check requirements for marriage licenses.
- Meet with minister, rabbi or other officiating authority to discuss the arrangements for the ceremony.
- Order dresses and shoes for bride's attendants; set a date for fitting and delivery.
- Order your dress and headpiece; set a date for fitting and delivery.
- Interview and book florist; choose the color and style of bouquets and arrangements.
- Choose china, crystal, silver patterns and other household accessories and register for gifts at various stores.
- Reserve equipment needed for the wedding day, such as tables, chairs, china, silverware, dance floor and linens. But remember if you're having your wedding at a scenic retreat like Sierra Lakes most of these items will be provided as part of your rental.
- If showers are held for you in advance of the wedding, begin a record of gifts received and send out thank-you notes.
- Plan your honeymoon.
- Make a reservation for the wedding night.
- Interview and choose a DJ or band for the reception.
- Interview and choose musicians for ceremony.
- Choose a photographer and videographer.
- If you're having your event at the Sierra Lakes, we can provide you with referrals to vendors of all kinds, including musicians, photographers, florists, videographers, cake bakeries and rental firms who can provide arbors, altars or gazebos. These are wedding professionals who are familiar with our facilities and know exactly when and how to do their work. They can help you personalize your wedding to make it truly yours.



Three to Six Months before the Wedding

- Order wedding rings.
- Finalize your guest list.
- Finalize catering arrangements. We offer both delicious buffet possibilities and outstanding plated entrees. You can also do hors d'oeuvres receptions if you wish or themed buffets.
- Order stationary, including invitations, announcements, thank you notes, wedding programs, seating cards and maps. You may wish to include food choices on your RSVP cards. Address your invitations.
- Interview bakers for the wedding cake and groom's cake.
- Help mothers coordinate and find their wedding day clothing.
- Finalize ceremony arrangements.
- Book any other needed services.

Two to Three Months before the Wedding

- Mail out invitations to guests.
- Begin making accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Have portraits taken and place engagement announcement in newspaper.
- Choose a rental shop for clothing for the groom and his attendants.
- Choose favors for guests and decide on room decorations.
- Arrange and plan your rehearsal dinner.
- Arrange bachelor and bachelorette parties. At Sierra Lakes you can combine those parties with a round of golf. We have a great full-length 18-hole course here at our club.
- Hire limousine service or arrange for transportation for wedding party and family members.
- Choose music for reception.
- Choose master of ceremonies and music for reception.
- Finalize selections for beverages for the reception and finalize menu choices if you have not already done so.
- Finalize all plans for the honeymoon.
- Decide on a hairdresser and/or makeup artist and book appointments.

"We'd like to thank the staff at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club for doing an outstanding job and providing excellent service at our wedding." Shelly & Richard D.



One to Two Months before the Wedding

- Keep a list of all guests who RSVP and record any gifts as they arrive. Send out thank-you notes.
- Have final fitting for wedding dress.
- Have final fittings for all apparel for wedding attendants.
- Order your wedding cake.
- Choose gifts for the bridal party.

Two to Four Weeks before the Wedding

- Obtain your wedding license.
- Select a guest book attendant.
- Choose where and when guests will sign in.
- Mail rehearsal dinner invitations.
- Plan a bridesmaid lunch or dinner.
- Create a calendar of events for the wedding day.
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements.
- Shop for clothing or luggage for honeymoon if needed.
- Write out a schedule of wedding day events for your wedding party and service providers.
- Decide where the reception line will be.
- Follow up with guests who have not replied to invitations.
- Pick up rings.
- Determine seating for ceremony and discuss it with ushers.



One to Two Weeks before the Wedding

- Send out announcements to those not invited to the wedding.
- Arrange for a location where the wedding party can dress.
- Arrange seating for bridal and parents' table; make place cards for guests.
- Buy any special decorative items needed, such as candles and table decorations.
- Confirm all transportation arrangements.
- Confirm lodging arrangements.
- Confirm flower order with florist.
- Confirm with caterer the final number of guests that will be coming.
- Pick up all wedding apparel and be sure that it fits.
- Finalize arrangements with all service providers: photographer, videographer, musicians and others.
- Hold bachelor and bachelorette parties.

One to Seven Days before the Wedding

- You will provide the final guarantee of the number of guests that will be at your wedding and reception.
- Make sure your marriage license is in order.
- Buy travelers checks.
- Pack for your trip. Pack for your honeymoon. You should arrive a day early.
- Have your wedding ceremony rehearsal followed by your rehearsal dinner.
- Instruct your wedding party on what you would like them to do on the big day.
- Choose someone to bring accessories to ceremony and reception, including ring pillow, flowers, guest book and pen, toasting glasses, cake cutting knife.
- Arrange for someone to give the checks to the professionals who are to be paid the day of the wedding.
- Arrange for someone to return all rental items.
- Pack any necessary props or decorations in your car.



The Big Day Arrives – A Checklist for Your Wedding Day

Wedding Day Supply Checklist- Don't forget the little extras and essentials

The list of items that you may need for your wedding day is endless. Here are just some of the possibilities of items and props you may wish to bring or have at your ceremony or reception:

Wedding Essentials

- Gifts for bridesmaids, groomsmen, parent and family, bride and groom.
- Tent to cover outdoor ceremony.
- Candles for ceremony.
- Flowers for ceremony.
- Arbor or altar or chuppah.

Reception Essentials

- A guest book, pen and guest book table.
- A special cake table.
- Gift table and box for cards.
- Decorations for banquet room.
- Favors for guests.
- Placecards and placecard holders for guests.
- Wedding cameras.
- Chairs and tables and linens and dishes if not supplied by caterer.
- Toasting glasses.



- Special cake knife to cut the cake.
- Special cake topper.
- Tent for reception site.

Keep in mind: At Sierra Lakes Golf Club we can provide the following: china, flatware and glassware; round and/or rectangular-shaped tables; bar with bartender; cake table, gift table, guest book table and a head table and linens.

“We would highly recommend Sierra Lakes Golf Club to those seeking the perfect venue for banquets, parties &, of course, weddings” Judi & Rodney K.



Three to four hours before the event (possibly the day before)

- Bride's family should visit ceremony and/or reception sites to decorate or to ensure that the florist or others whom you have hired are doing decorating.
- This is a good time to confirm final details with our staff at Sierra Lakes Golf Club or wherever you are having your event about menu, cake, beverages.

Two to three hours before the event

- Bride and bridesmaids have hair & makeup done, either professionally or by each other.
- Bride and her attendants begin dressing.
- Groom and groomsmen meet and begin dressing - bring rings and marriage license.
- Flowers should arrive and be refrigerated or placed in cool location.
- If photos will be taken before the ceremony, allow at least 1 ½ hours.

Last hour before the event

- Clergy person and/or officiating person for ceremony should arrive.
- Ushers should arrive 45 minutes before ceremony.
- Guests should be seated as they arrive.
- Music is played.

Fifteen minutes before

- Family members and special guests are escorted to marked seating locations.

Five minutes before

- Groom's mother and father are escorted to seats.
- Bride's mother is last person to be escorted to seat.
- Carpet runner is rolled down aisle.
- Bride's father takes his place with the bride.
- Officiating minister or authority takes his place at front.
- Groom enters accompanied by best man.
- Processional music begins.
- Bridesmaids enter in order, then the Bride and her father.



Wedding Etiquette and Advice

Pre-Wedding Activities – The Work Starts Long Before the Wedding

Announcing Your Engagement:

The days of sending out formal engagement announcements are probably gone forever. You will, however, want to email all your closest friends and relatives with the big news and tell them tentatively when you plan to hold your wedding.

In suburban areas or small towns, it is still possible to place an announcement of your engagement in the local newspaper. Call the paper and ask them to send you an announcement form; also ask what kind of photo they need. The best photo would be a sharply detailed black and white of the two of you.

Choosing Wedding Vendors:



Since many of our wedding couples come from another area to hold their events at Sierra Lakes we can provide you with names of many local wedding vendors, including photographers, musicians and other service providers who are based near our facility. Sometimes this can make your wedding day go more smoothly. Some of our brides, however, wish to hire vendors who travel in for the wedding from the couple's home location. Whatever your situation, we can help you make it work.

Here is a list of some of the important services you need to arrange for your wedding. You'll want to seek references from friends and relatives. These are also items that can drive up your expenses considerably. So be sure to ask lots of questions about the cost.

- **Photography** – Finding the right photographer takes time, but it's time well-spent. You can only take the pictures once, after all. You may need to book a photographer well in advance; so don't wait to the last minute. Ask to see samples of his or her work before you make a decision. Friends and relatives may offer to take photos. That's fine, but nothing compares with the work of a professional. Ask photographers about what moments of the wedding they will take pictures of and how many rolls of film they will shoot. It's possible that pictures cannot be taken inside a church or synagogue during your ceremony.

We can tell you exactly what the best sites are on our grounds that will provide wonderful backdrops for your wedding photos. Hiring a photographer who has worked Sierra Lakes before can ensure that you will have photos at all the best sites.

- **Videography** – Almost everyone does some videotaping of their wedding. Hiring a professional can make sense, but remember that they have to use very bright lights at time to do their job. Will this interfere with the quality of your wedding experience? At any rate, ask to see samples of his or her work before you make a decision. Some videotaping by members of the family or friends might make a good option.

If you hire a professional, they often have several formats for taping. For example, a video can be shot with one camera that starts at the ceremony and runs through the end of the reception, with no editing. This option is the cheapest available. Others turn the video into a documentary that may include interviews with family and friends as well as the wedding party; this would require more editing and more expense.

- **Flowers and Decorations** – The main focus is on the bouquets. Will there be nosegays or luxuriant and loose armfuls of blossoms or closely knotted colonial style bouquets?

White has always been traditional for the bride and remains popular because of its pristine elegance. Think of the options: lilies, orchids, freesia, stephanotis, lilies of the valley, baby's breath and plumaria? How about combining paper whites and calla lilies in the same bouquet? Or what about a feathery green bouquet of ferns combined with a few white blossoms?



Strong colors can be a dramatic possibility for the bride as well: red roses or red tulips; burgundy and gold flowers in autumn that pick up the colors of the bridesmaids' dresses; or long-stemmed purple and yellow pansies tied up with lace.

Carnations are definitely out of style for the guys. Boutonnieres can now be as varied as a sprig of rosemary or a fir or pine twig combined with acorns or a tiny bit of eucalyptus combined with a rose. The groom's boutonniere is often a flower found in the bridal bouquet that he wears on the left lapel, right over his heart.

And the mother of the bride and mother of the groom can carry nosegays instead of wearing corsages.

Be sure to give your florist a list of the wedding party and their corresponding flowers. That way, there will be less confusion about who gets what bouquet or corsage.

Don't forget the floral decorations for the church or ceremony site. And be sure to pin down the timing. When the florist arrive before the ceremony and how soon can all the flowers be used to decorate the site?

- **Wedding Music** – Music is a major part of your wedding and reception, and should be chosen with care as it sets an important tone and atmosphere. Special songs and solos can also make the wedding uniquely your own.

Usually two different types of music are desired: softer, more romantic music sung or played during the ceremony, and entertaining or dancing music played for the reception. In some cases the same musicians may play both types.

Before making any definite music arrangements or selections, you should check with your church or synagogue to see what restrictions it may have.

The traditional wedding processionals and recessionals are still used: Wagner's "Wedding March" from *Lohengrin* for the processional and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*" for the recessional. But today's couples often choose from many other classical and religious options for their ceremony music.

Taped music can be used for smaller weddings. But live music is always more glamorous.

- **Transportation** – You may not want to arrange a special limousine for everyone, but you do need to make sure that key members of the family and all members of the wedding party have rides to Sierra Lakes Golf Club
- **Marriage License** – As soon as you pick a wedding location, you and the groom should probably call the license and registration office to find out what the regulations for a license are in that area. You'll want to know the hours they are open and what kind of payment you have to make. You may have to go to the license bureau in person to obtain a license and will need to bring identification with



you – probably a birth certificate, passport or driver’s license. Some require waiting periods or blood tests. Once you have the license, file it safely until your wedding day.



Pre-Wedding Excitement and Parties – The Excitement Goes On and On

The build-up to the big day of your wedding is going to be filled with excitement and parties. Here are some tips on what is customary and traditional and how you may wish to personalize these events to suit you and your lifestyle.

- **Bridal Luncheon or Dinner** – Once upon a time, the maid or matron of honor and bridesmaids held a lunch for the bride a week or so before the wedding. At that time, the bride gave her attendants her presents and the bridesmaids in turn gave their wedding gifts to the bride.

With today's busy schedules, this doesn't happen as often, but it would make a wonderful idea, particularly if members of the wedding party don't know each other very well. The bridal luncheon could even take place the day that the bridal party picks up their dresses.

Rather than the bridesmaids giving the lunch, the bride may want to serve as hostess for this event. Or perhaps the bride would like to hold a dinner, the same night that the groom holds his bachelor party.

A great location might be here at Sierra Lakes Golf Club. It's a great way for your wedding party to become familiar with our location and facilities. And if the group is willing, you might even turn this event into a bachelorette golf tournament.

- **Wedding Showers** – Wedding showers are usually held at least two weeks before the wedding, but that rule is not firm. Generally they are held when they are convenient for everyone involved.



Who serves as hostess for the bridal shower is another role that has changed; generally, it is the maid of honor with help from the bridesmaids. Nowadays, however, anyone who wants to host a shower can; generally, members of the bride's immediate family do not give showers, but even that traditional rule is often broken.

Showers are often given in the home of the hostess. Restaurants, golf clubs and outdoor locations such as a park or patio can add new excitement to your event. Holding a shower at a restaurant or club means less work and more fun for all involved. You might consider holding a shower at Sierra Lakes

Showers usually last about two hours, but time can vary depending on the type of shower you plan to hold. The time at the shower can be broken down any number of ways, but the basic format usually includes the following: arrival of guests, bridal shower games, lunch, tea or brunch, opening of gifts and cutting and serving of the cake. It's best to invite only those guests who are also invited to the wedding.

If the bride is having more than one shower, try to arrange it so that the guests are not invited to more than one of these parties, except for family or wedding party members.

Showcase the bride and groom with an enlarged photograph of the couple from their dating era. Mount it on poster board with a wide border. Set the board on an easel and attach a fine point permanent marker to the end of a strand of ribbon. Attach the pen to the board so guests can sign their name and a brief message for the couple on the poster board.

Games are a great way for guests to get to know each other. Don't wait for everyone to show up. Late arrivals can join in on the next game. Allow time for two games but have a third one ready to go just in case you breeze through the first two. Be prepared with supplies like pencils and paper before the party starts.

Shower gifts should be opened in front of guests. Have the bride sit where everyone can see her. A bridesmaid should keep track of what she receives and who it is from. That will make it easier for the bride to send out thank-you notes later.

Shower gifts can be more practical and less costly than wedding gifts. It's fun to hold a theme for your shower asking for gifts for the bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, closet or garden. Lingerie or pillow showers are also popular.

- **Bachelor/Bachelorette Parties** – Once upon a time, the reason for giving a bachelor dinner was quite different than it is today. The idea was to hold a final fling to "bolster" the groom's courage before the big day.

Today's bachelor parties, however, are more often outings several days or even a week or two before the wedding. In fact, it's a good idea not to hold the party right before the wedding.



The event may be organized and paid for by the groom or his father or another family member or by members of the wedding party. Often the groom uses this occasion to give presents to the best man and his ushers. Unlike the custom of giving gifts which can be worn during the wedding, as in the case of the bride's attendants, the gifts for groom's attendants are more likely not to be worn or used in the wedding: pocket knives, small traveling kits, wallets and other items.

Consider some fresh alternatives for guy fun. Today's bachelor parties are often times when good friends get together for a special event – a baseball or football game, camping trip, a day of fishing or frequently, a day of golf.

If you're thinking of golfing for your wedding group, Sierra Lakes will be happy to treat you as an outing group and will set up tee times so that all foursomes can finish at about the same time. Arrange a box lunch or breakfast for your group as well. The groom might like to use golf as the theme for his gifts to ushers, including such items as golf balls, golf shirts with the club logo or golf visors.

This is an excellent way to familiarize your friends with Sierra Lakes and its facilities before the wedding day.

- **The Rehearsal** -- Holding a final rehearsal before the wedding is an excellent way to avoid slipups on the big day. At the rehearsal you'll be able to iron out all the final details with all the participants in your wedding. We allow you ample time for a rehearsal at Sierra Lakes

By now, you should have met with the person performing the ceremony to discuss what will be said during the ceremony. Even the smallest detail -- saying, "I do" or "I will" -- may make a difference to you. It's important to finalize all this before the rehearsal so you can concentrate on rehearsing, rather than on making decisions. Be sure that you and your clergy person/officiant are on the same wavelength about how the ceremony will go. The rehearsal is also a good time for soloists and musicians to practice.

The best time for your rehearsal is late afternoon on the day before. It is good, but not necessary, to do the rehearsal at the wedding site. It may be more valuable if there are children in the wedding party in order to help them learn exactly where they need to walk and stand. But sometimes a rehearsal on site is not possible. If so, a rehearsal can be done in someone's family room or living room.

Start your rehearsal by calling the entire wedding party together. Line them up in the order they will stand during the wedding ceremony. If you are missing one or several members of the wedding party at the rehearsal, don't worry too much. Be sure as you line people up that you leave a space for each missing attendant. Ask those who are on either side of the missing attendant to clue him or her in on the day of the wedding. Those present will pay extra attention; those missing will get the word and you won't have to worry about it.

Besides having the bride and groom and attendants at the rehearsal, the mother of the bride attends as well. The bride's father or whoever will escort her up the aisle must be there, too, as well as the officiating person or clergy person, your wedding director and your organist or other musicians and singer. The groom's parents do not have to attend but often do so.



In general, the person officiating over the ceremony will give instructions to the wedding party about where to stand and when to walk in and out. The clergy person will explain the service and tell each member of the wedding party at what point to play his or her role. The processional is usually rehearsed first and is done in this order: ushers, junior ushers, bridesmaids, maid of honor, matron of honor, junior bridesmaids, ring bearer, flower girl, bride and father.

During the ceremony rehearsal the attendants generally will stand on either side of the clergy person or officiating authority, facing the bride and groom and looking out at the guests. The bride and groom stand in front of minister/clergy person/judge. Ring bearers and flower girls stand in front of the adult attendants.

There are options for the recessional. The bride and groom lead the recessional down the aisle, the bride taking the groom's right arm. Sometimes bridesmaids and ushers follow in the same order as in the processional; in other ceremonies, they pair up with the maid of honor escorted by the best man.

Be sure to introduce everyone to each other at the rehearsal and always remind all the attendants about timing for the next day. Give everyone a telephone number to call in case of problems.

Tips on Rehearsal Dinners---Your rehearsal dinner should have a different style and menu than your wedding. For instance, if your wedding is a formal sit-down dinner, then plan a rehearsal dinner that is more casual, such as a buffet. Some wedding couples use a theme for their rehearsal dinner – Italian or French, for example.

You don't have to send out invitations for your rehearsal dinner, but if you have time -- it's a good idea. The invitation will tell people where and when the rehearsal will be held and where and when the dinner will take place. You can include directions and a map.

You should invite all those who will take part in the wedding ceremony to the rehearsal dinner. Spouses or dates of all adult attendants should be invited. Parents and grandparents of the bride and groom should be invited. You can also invite other family members who are not part of the ceremony and out-of-town guests to join your rehearsal dinner.



Wedding Budget – Who Pays for What?

Current estimates of what weddings cost are all over the financial spectrum. Much of it depends on where you live, how many people you invite and what frills you want to add or subtract. If you're worried about the costs, one thought to keep in mind is that you pay many of the expenses as you go along. The best plan is to make payments for several months in advance so you don't receive a huge bill the day of the event.

Because of the costs, many couples often help their parents pay for today's weddings, particularly when the bride and groom are older and have been working for a number of years.

Traditionally, the etiquette books have lists of what each family and person should pay for. But remember as you look at our list that in the 21st century, obligations and responsibilities can be revised and changed. The important thing is that you need to make it clear to all parties involved what everyone is going to pay.



What the Bride and Her Family Traditionally Pay For:

- The groom's wedding ring.
- Pre-wedding parties, such as the first engagement party.
- Stationery, including invitations, announcements, personal stationery, wedding programs, thank-you notes and postage costs.
- The bride's wedding dress and in some cases, bridesmaids'.
- Clothing for parents of the bride.
- Any engagement photos taken in advance and all photography and videography at the wedding.
- Gifts for bridesmaids.
- Luncheon for bridesmaids.
- Fees for bridal consultants.
- Flowers and decorations for the ceremony and reception site.
- Bride's flowers and flowers for her attendants, although sometimes the groom pays for the bride's bouquet.
- Music for the ceremony and reception.
- Any fees for a church or ceremony site, except for the fee for the clergy person,
- The wedding reception.
- Transportation for bridal party to and from ceremony and reception.
- Bride's wedding gift to groom.
- Wedding gift from bride's parents to couple.
- Possibly overnight accommodations for bridesmaids and, in some cases, for out-of-town relatives or guests of the bride.

What the Groom and His Family Traditionally Pay For:

- Bride's engagement and wedding rings.
- Groom's formalwear, shoes & accessories and sometimes clothing for groomsmen & ushers.
- Pre-wedding parties as desired and the bachelor dinner or event.
- Rehearsal dinner.
- Groom's wedding present to bride.
- Groom's gifts to groomsmen and ushers.
- Marriage license.
- Clothing for parents of groom.
- Some flowers, including possibly the bride's bouquet, boutonnieres for groomsmen and ushers, and corsages for mothers and grandmothers.
- Fee for the clergyperson or person officiating at the ceremony.
- Possibly overnight accommodations for groomsmen and, in some cases, for out-of-town relatives or guests of the groom.
- Possibly transportation for groom and groomsmen to church.
- Possibly overnight accommodations for groomsmen and, in some cases, for out-of-town relatives or guests of the groom.
- Transportation from the reception to honeymoon site for bride and groom.



- Honeymoon trip.

What Bridesmaids Traditionally Pay For:

- The maid or matron of honor usually hosts a bridal shower and/or bachelorette party; friends may host engagement party.
- Their attire, shoes and accessories, if the bride doesn't provide it.
- Their own transportation and accommodations if not paid for by bride.
- An individual wedding gift.

What Groomsmen and Ushers Traditionally Pay For:

- The best man usually hosts a bachelor party or dinner; friends may host an engagement party.
- Their attire, shoes and accessories.
- Their transportation and accommodations, if not paid for by groom.
- An individual wedding gift.

Expenses That Could Be Shared:

- Bride or groom's families may hand down heirloom rings.
- Bride's family may host the rehearsal dinner and/or dinners and meals for out-of-town relatives.
- Bride's family may buy bouquets and corsages.
- The wedding couple may cover all ceremony costs.
- The groom's family may share the cost of the reception by covering specific services. One family may cover photography and the other pay for videography.
- Either family may arrange transportation or lodging for out-of-town guests.
- The couple may buy thank-you gifts for parents, friends and relatives who helped with planning the wedding.

Wedding Invitations and Guest List – Who Will You Invite and When?

Once you decide on a date, place and size for your wedding, you can start on the guest list. Generally, the bride's family makes up the guest list and all guests are invited to both ceremony and reception.

When preparing the guest list, invitations are to the groom's parents as a memento of the wedding, to wedding attendants and spouses, the clergy person and his or her spouse and the attendants' parents.

Give special thought to your invitations both to the texture and weight of paper as well as the printing and design.

The proper wedding invitation wording is critical and we tell you everything there is to know. Whether it be a church wedding, home wedding, second marriage or whatever, the proper etiquette and wedding invitation wording are essential.



Generally, you must order your invitations at least two or three months before the wedding. All wedding invitations should be sent from the home of the bride, even those that are for the personal friends of the groom. They should be mailed about six-eight weeks before the day set for the wedding. Out-of-town guests should be sent a notice card, preferably with hotel suggestions, in time for them to make travel accommodations. Be sure to include maps, RSVP cards and other necessary information in your invitations. And when you order your stationary, you may wish to order thank-you notes to send out afterward as well.



Picking a location for ceremony and reception – The perfect day requires the perfect place

Is it your fantasy to be married in a grand cathedral, on the fairway of your favorite golf course, or under a gazebo in a lush green garden setting?

Every bride-to-be knows that the wedding of her dreams begins with a wonderful location, the perfect backdrop for a romantic story. To ensure that you can have the ceremony and reception that you have always dreamed of, you will want to plan carefully and well in advance.

We believe that at Sierra Lakes we have the setting for your ceremony and reception that you have always yearned for. Our beautiful views and green golf course at Sierra Lakes, gives you wonderful options for both your ceremony and reception with us.

Location, Service, Choice, Food, plus a Magnificent Setting Make Sierra Lakes the Perfect Location for All Functions and Events. For several decades, we have been helping individuals, families, and groups hold memorable events at Sierra Lakes.

What will your ceremony be like at Sierra Lakes Golf Club?



Start by deciding exactly what type of ceremony you want to have. Will your ceremony be a traditional and formal affair or something a bit more relaxed? At any rate, you want to fill your special day with the personal touches and flowers that show just who you are.

The season of the year, the number of guests expected and your religious affiliation will play a role. The ceremony location is the place where you make those lifelong promises and commitments. So begin thinking about the ceremony site as soon as you have selected the date for your wedding. We also do a number of civil ceremonies.

As we mentioned, like many country clubs, golf clubs and hotels, our country club can accommodate both your ceremony and your reception, which can significantly reduce the logistical and financial issues involved with planning a wedding.

Most brides bring with them special items for the ceremony, including arbors, kneeling cushions, aisle runners, unity candles and candelabra. We can provide you with names of florists, musicians, DJs, photographers wedding coordinators and other service providers in the area.

While an outdoor space will be an exciting location for your wedding, make sure that the person officiating at the wedding is willing to perform the ceremony at your chosen location. Some clergy members will only perform ceremonies in a house of worship. Make sure that your guests understand what an outdoor ceremony might mean as well in terms of dress.

When you book your contract with us, we will specify arrival and departure times and equipment that can be used. We have ample parking at our course for your guests.

You will want to inquire soon about any date you have in mind. We are open for weddings year-round and all days of the week because our calendar fills up quickly.

Our facility is among the most popular in the area, so our staff is very experienced with working with bridal couples. Our food and beverage manager has lots of experience and is well equipped to meet your event needs. We have set up for weddings many times so your big day will probably go very smoothly.

After that lovely ceremony, what will your reception be like at Sierra Lakes Golf Club?

All eyes will be on the bride at your wedding, of course, but scenery and comfortable surroundings, like those available at Sierra Lakes, will help make your wedding reception a pleasure and an unforgettable experience for your guests.

You'll want to look for a banquet room or dining area with an attractive color scheme that compliments the colors worn by your wedding attendants.

Another key part of the wedding event for your guests is the menu you plan to serve. The options for wedding receptions are endless: breakfast, brunch, lunch, hors d'oeuvres reception, buffet with a theme, buffet with carving stations, sit-down dinners. All of that is possible at Sierra Lakes Golf Club.



In choosing a reception site, wedding couples often ask themselves: Is the setting beautiful, but the food only so-so? Can I sample some dishes in advance? Do I want to give my guests choices or will everyone be served the same food? Can my reception area customize the menu or am I restricted to very limited choices?

Sierra Lakes Golf Club has the right answers to all those questions. We are known for our fantastic cuisine and can customize menus to suit your lifestyle.

You start out with hors d'oeuvres and beverages, followed by an elegant dinner. We have both plated entrees and buffet options available for your reception. You can choose from many different entrees. We have experienced staff with years of experience in handling weddings. They can create exactly what you want for your party.

Beverage plans at many facilities can be very complicated. You'll want to ask: What is the charge per drink for an open bar? Is there a corking fee if you provide your own champagne and wine? Do they charge extra to pour coffee with the cake?

What will our service be like?

At Sierra Lakes, we have a devoted and gracious staff to tend to the needs of your guests with skill. Don't hesitate to ask about any question you have in mind. We handle small and large groups every year and we offer everyone the same warm and friendly welcome.



A Promise of Your Love: Your Ceremony

When it comes to planning ceremonies, today's wedding couples are determined to put their own special imprint on the vows, the music and every word spoken during the service. Here are some of the main elements to decide:

A Special Person to Preside Over the Ceremony – You may wish to have a minister, rabbi or clergy person from your faith preside at your wedding. Perhaps a friend of the family or a relative can do so as well. Be sure that the person you choose knows where the location will be for the wedding and that that person is willing to do the ceremony there. Be sure to include the presiding person in invitations to the rehearsal dinner and wedding itself. Some clergy people want the bride and groom to have counseling sessions with them before the wedding.

Words to Say Your Vows By -- Writing your own vows and doing readings of poetry, prose or Scripture are among the ways of creating a special moment during your ceremony. Before you do all this, be sure to check out the many books published on ceremonies for saying "I do." You may even wish to



write your own romantic poetry to recite at the altar. Be sure to check out your choices with the person who will be performing your ceremony. And practice, practice, practice before you get to the big day.

Wedding Theme – The truth is that almost every wedding has a theme these days. Sometimes it's the simplest of ideas like decorating with cones, acorns and woody branches when holding your wedding/reception in a beautiful location. But modern couples also borrow music and special clothing from their ethnic heritage for their ceremony: Traditional English, Scottish, Irish, or other for example. Flowers can be planned as well to fit these themes.

The Unity Candle Ceremony – This is a ceremony that has become common in many weddings. Couples use two lit taper candles to light one giant candle that can even be engraved with your names and the date. Your parents can be involved in lighting the two original candles; children can also join in the ceremony.

Flowers and Decorations – If you choose a florist located in the area near your ceremony site, he or she can give you advice about what flowers and decorations are permitted there and ideas on creative ways to decorate. At Sierra Lakes our grounds have beautiful landscaping, but you may want to add your own special touches such as an arbor and altar.

Grand Entrances for the Bride – You'll want to have an aisle-runner for the bridesmaids and bride to walk on. Perhaps you'll want it sprinkled with rose petals by a flower girl.

Music for the Ceremony -- The music should start about a half hour before the ceremony, usually instrumentals to set the mood, with a solo sung just after the mother of the bride is seated. This lets people know the processional is about to start. The processional will begin usually with an instrumental.

Once the attendants have reached the altar or ceremony site, music which announces the arrival of the bride is played, commanding everyone's attention as you walk down the aisle. The guests should stand as the bride enters with her father. This selection can be traditional or contemporary and either an instrumental or a solo. One or two songs may be played during the ceremony -- any more would be too many. Finally there is the recessional, which should be more upbeat and a slightly quicker tempo.

"We took full advantage of the offerings at Sierra Lakes Golf Club concerning our wedding. My shower & rehearsal dinner, ceremony & reception were all at Sierra Lakes Golf Club. Every event featured a different menu & all of them were great! I recommend Sierra Lakes Golf Club to all of my girlfriends!" Joyce W.



The Celebration of Your Love - The Reception

The ceremony is over and it was glorious. Now the celebrating and the feasting begins. From music to menu to toasts, you need to do some advance planning as well:

Receiving Line – Receiving lines are becoming less popular at today's less formal weddings. But having a receiving line guarantees that the bride and groom, their attendants and families can personally welcome the guests and thank them for coming. On the receiving line everyone gets a quick handshake or kiss and a thank you.

Some couples choose to hold a receiving line right after the ceremony. Others wait until the start of the reception. The line can be positioned near the entrance of the banquet room. Either way, here's what you need to know if you're planning to have a receiving line.

A receiving line can be as big or as small as you like. Generally, the parents and the bride and groom should take part. The attendants may also participate. But the larger the receiving line, the more difficult it becomes.



Traditionally, members of the receiving line stand in the following order: bride's mother, bride's father, groom's mother, groom's father, bride, groom, maid of honor and, finally, the bridesmaids. If either member of the happy couple has any children, they can stand wherever they feel most comfortable. If either of the couple's parents are remarried, it's up to the bride and groom to decide who stands in the receiving line.

Party Favors – Favors for your wedding guests are endless and far more imaginative than they were in the past. Here's just a sampling: Small boxes of chocolates, personalized mini-samples of tea bags or coffee; tiny candles shaped like wedding cakes; scented bath salts in heart-shaped bottles; packets of wildflower seeds; small woodcuts or watercolors of the church where the wedding took place; golf balls and/or golf tees imprinted with the names of the bride and groom (perfect for the couple getting married at a golf club). You can probably think of thousands of more ideas.

The Menu – Wedding feasts go back to the beginning of time. Spectacular food gives pleasure to the guests and the wedding party as well. We have talked about menu planning before in this manual, but here is some more information:

A golf club, restaurant or a hotel with a reputation for good food and service are places that can ensure that the menu for your guests turns out perfectly.

Remember as well that it is the quality of the cuisine at your wedding that counts, not the number of different types of hors d'oeuvres or buffet dishes or courses. But of course, there should be enough for everyone to eat.

The main types of reception are the brunch, lunch, late afternoon reception and dinner. Brunch can begin with light hors d'oeuvres and champagne, followed by eggs benedict, perhaps. For lunch, you can have a buffet of salads and cold turkey and ham or for a sit-down affair begin with soup or salad depending on the weather, followed by the entrée and then perhaps fruit to go with the wedding cake. For a late afternoon event, start with hors d'oeuvres and then have buffet tables with salads and entrees. For a seated dinner, three courses are usual: soup or salad, a second course entrée and then wedding cake with ice cream. Coffee and tea are served at the end of the meal.

Decorations and Flowers – Table decorations are a necessity and can include candles or unique containers, such as porcelain cachepots, colored glass bottles, unique pieces of pottery, all holding beautiful flowers.

Don't make your table too busy. Make the arrangements low or high enough that the guests can see you on the dance floor and still talk to one another.

For a simpler look, still life fruit bowls studded with stephanotis blooms make beautiful centerpieces. Try twining small pieces of fragrant flowering vine in and around each place setting for added texture and softness.

Colored linens that compliment the colors worn by the wedding party are popular. Many brides choose to cover the standard chairs in the dining room with drapes tied with magnificent ribbons..



The Seating Arrangements – Whether you have a sit down dinner or a buffet, you really should have at least a specific table assigned to each guest. People feel more comfortable when they know where they’re sitting.

If offering more than one entree, your caterer will find it easier to serve the food to assigned tables. The kitchen staff can plan out how many of each dish should be served to each particular table and waiters can be briefed in advance.

Sometimes the wedding party is seated at a long head table – bride and groom in the center, flanked by their attendants. But brides and grooms often feel uncomfortable putting themselves, and their wedding party, on display while they eat. So often the bridal party is seated at round reception tables, together with their dates – or even scattered throughout the room among the guests. In general, the bride and groom spend very little time eating anyway and lots of time visiting guests at their tables or dancing.

Toasts – At more formal weddings, the toasting begins after lunch or dinner is served. You may need to have a microphone for the toasting. The best man should be the toastmaster; parents, grandparents and sisters and brothers can also make toasts. The best man starts, followed by the groom toasting the bride, the bride toasting the groom and the bride’s father toasting the couple and so forth. When the bride is being toasted, she remains seated and the groom stands; when they are toasted as a couple, they both remain seated.



The Cake – Today’s wedding cakes have gone way beyond white frosting and pink sugar roses. If you’re interested in something distinctive for your cake, seek bakery referrals from family and friends. You might even wish to compile a cake photo file. At Sierra Lakes Golf Club we can provide you with lists of vendors who will deliver a cake to our facility for your big day.

A myriad of flavors are available to you in between the standard vanilla and chocolate; carrot cake and mocha praline are popular, as are chocolate mousse and raspberry fillings. You can trim your cake with unusual frills – acorns, ribbons, lace, berries and ribbons. Be whimsical: Add your wedding colors to the cake or decorate it to look like the bride’s dress.

A cake can have as many tiers as you wish, although three or four is about average. The top tier is often kept intact and frozen so the bride and groom can eat it on their first wedding anniversary. Etiquette says that generally guests are expected to stay at the reception until the bride and groom cut the cake. So as a courtesy, try not to delay the cake-cutting for hours, or you might find your guests slipping away.

A silver, decorated cake knife is usually used to cut the cake. The bride, standing at the groom’s left cuts the first piece with the groom helping her. They then feed each other a tiny piece of cake. After that the cake is cut for the guests.



Music and Dancing – Reception music can be any of a variety of types, depending on the mood you want set at a particular time. You may want something a little softer for the first hour during the receiving line or cocktails, and then have the sound pick up later on. Or maybe you prefer only violins, with no dancing. The types of musicians may range from an individual like a pianist, to a small combo of mixed instruments, to a larger orchestra of eight to twenty people. At Sierra Lakes we have room for a band or a DJ and recorded music.

Don't forget the ages of your guests; try to select musicians that can play a variety of songs from slower and more traditional to faster and more hip. It's a good idea to make a list of songs you would like played and give it to the band leader.

Selecting your musicians and music carefully is important. You may find musicians or through the yellow pages or musicians' union in your area. If the reception is held in a hotel or restaurant or golf club, the manager may be helpful with music suggestions.

You may opt for a DJ and recorded music. Recorded music is becoming more popular today than ever before. The equipment and the people operating it have gotten much more professional. With the cost of live music so high, it's an economical alternative. At Sierra Lakes, we can provide you with suggestions.

Sierra Lakes Golf Club delivers the Inland Empire's most flexible wedding packages.

Planning your dream wedding is easy — Our expert wedding consultants guide you through all the details.

Dear Bride-to-be,

Your Wedding of Your Dreams deserves to be followed with the finest cuisine. Sierra Lakes Golf Club handles all the details so you can relax & enjoy your special day with your family & friends!

Your wedding day is a special moment in time, when everything has to be perfect & no detail can be forgotten. At Sierra Lakes Golf Club, the beautiful natural setting combined with the expertise of our wedding specialists & chefs ensures that your wedding is everything you've dreamed of.

Key to any wedding is the cuisine that you serve to your guests. Our chefs are among the finest in Southern California. Executive Chef Ruben will ensure your guests will rave about their dining experience during your special day.

Your reception will be crafted to suit your tastes & budget, regardless of the size of your group. My staff & I will work hard to ensure that your reception will be a memorable way to savor the first moments of your new life together.

All of our packages include just about everything. We try to make your day as special, & easy, as we can at Sierra Lakes Golf Club! That's why your room reservation includes:

- Set-up of tables, chairs, selected linens, silverware, glassware & china
- Assorted choices for wedding head table, cake table & cutting service
- Skirted Gift table
- Guest sign-in table or podium
- Easels for wedding photos
- Wood dance floor
- Beautiful sites for photographs
- Complimentary self-parking

Isn't that easy?

Keep in mind that we're completely flexible in every facet of your wedding plans here at Sierra Lakes Golf Club. From menus, to ceremonies, to receptions – we want your day to truly be yours! We can work with just about any budget & welcome your wedding business for any day of the week. Keep in mind, though, there is a "high season" for wedding & our choicest dates fill rather quickly.

Call me today at (909) 350-2500 ext 6 for available dates & pricing tailored to your event. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Best Wishes,

Allison Jonsson

Banquet & Wedding Coordinator

Sierra Lakes Golf Club

allison@sierralakes.com

A glorious day & the beginning of a beautiful life – it all starts at Sierra Lakes Golf Club!

Thank you for taking a look at our Wedding Planner Guide. We hope you've learned a few things you may not have known about planning your wedding ceremony & reception.

Please, don't let the sheer volume of information overwhelm you! We're here to help you with every facet, every last detail of your wedding ceremony & reception. You only have to go through this planning process once – we've been through it countless times. We only ask our brides to concentrate on looking gorgeous & enjoying their day here. We take care of everything else.

In fact, some of our brides — & even a few fathers — were extremely pleased with our performances over the years

"The entire staff at Sierra Lakes Golf Club went out of their way to make all of my friends & family feel special at my wedding. The Wedding Garden & gazebo were really great touches we could not find anywhere else. Our photos are great! The mountains in the background are so cool — great memories for ever! Thanks again for everything!" Sue F

"When I walked my little girl down the aisle, I couldn't have been more proud & more pleased that she selected Sierra Lakes Golf Club. The folks there made her day so special, the one she's always dreamed of!" William C.

Begin your life together in style

It all begins with a call to Sierra Lakes Golf Club!

We hope you find this Wedding Guide both helpful & inspirational!

If you're ready to begin your wedding plans in earnest, please give me a call **(909) 350-2500 ext 6** or email me at allison@sierralakes.com. I'll be with you through every step of your planning process.

Welcome to Sierra Lakes Golf Club!

Allison Jonsson,
Banquet & Wedding Coordinator
Sierra Lakes Golf Club
allison@sierralakes.com