

Wedding Reception Itinerary Suggestions

The purpose of a wedding itinerary is to alleviate some anxiety on the wedding day. Instead of constantly wondering who should be doing what, the bride and groom can relax, knowing that everything is running according to schedule. Your itinerary can be printed and included in your invitation, or set on top of the place settings at the reception. The final itinerary would include set times when each portion of the event is scheduled to begin.

Helping to emcee could be one or a combination of the following: the Center's event planner, a friend, a DJ, or the band leader. To ensure a successful reception, couples should keep the comfort of their guests in mind.

Here are some guidelines to get started in planning your itinerary:

- Dinner prayer.
- Wedding speeches by the best man, maid of honor, and parents might occur here, or after dinner (see below).
- Dinner portion ends with the couple thanking everyone, and inviting people to dance after the cake is cut. Wedding speeches could occur here, with the father of the bride perhaps inviting the guests to dance.
- Cutting the cake.
- Dance portion of the evening:
 - First dance of couple with their wedding song
 - Bridal party dance
 - Father/daughter wedding song
 - Mother/son wedding song
 - Open dancing with popular dance songs
 - Bridal bouquet toss
 - Garter toss
 - Open dancing
 - Last dance
 - Exit of the bride and groom

Couples may include games; dollar, wedding line, or anniversary dances; or other special activities during the reception. Work additional elements into the dance itinerary as desired.

Combined Itinerary: Dinner and dancing portions of reception do not have to be separated. Here are some options:

- Dance the first dance and bridal party dance right after the wedding party grand entrance song, then open the dance floor to guests.
- Skip the bouquet toss during the dance and instead give the bouquet away during dinner to the couple attending who has been married the longest.
- Cut and serve the cake after the first dances, but before dance floor opens to guests.
- Give a "thank you for attending" speech by the bride and groom just before the last dance, rather than during the dinner.

Couples who choose to skip the grand entrance can ask their emcee to announce the wedding party members during the bridal party dance.