



WEDDING PROGRAM GUIDE

WHAT TO INCLUDE

These are all suggestions and not necessarily required.

Order of Ceremony

Some people choose to drastically simplify this aspect of the program (i.e. everybody stands, they kiss, everyone celebrates!) and other times, as with most church ceremonies, the order of ceremony can be very long and specific. In most cases, you will get this information from the officiant / minister performing the ceremony. Your officiant may need to review it before printing so allow enough time for that if that is the case. Listing the music is optional.

Emily Post gives us this outline of most traditional Christian and secular wedding ceremonies:

1. Prelude music is played.
 2. Honored Guests are ushered to their seats.
 3. The processional music begins.
 4. The wedding party processes, followed by the bride and her father.
 5. The officiant offers greetings, opening remarks, or prayers.
 6. The couple declare their intent to marry and exchange vows and rings.
 7. The officiant proclaims the couple married.
 8. The couple kiss.
 9. The couple recess, followed by the wedding party, accompanied by the recessional music.
- (Excerpt from *Emily Post's Wedding Etiquette, 6th Edition*)

Wedding Party

List parents of the bride and groom, grandparents if they are present, bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc. If you want to be more formal, you can list full names (first, middle, last) but it's not necessary. Occasionally people will also list the relationship of the person to the bride or groom (i.e. "friend of the bride") but this practice is also a personal preference.

In Memoriam

Recognize family members and important people who may no longer be with us. It could be something like, “the flowers on the altar are in remembrance of...” or just a simple “in loving memory” with names listed.

Thank You

The bride and groom will often include a note to thank guests for being there to celebrate with them on such an important day.

At Home

This practice stems from earlier days when the bride and groom would be moving in together for the first time after the wedding. It’s still nice to include so that guests have your new address should they want to send a gift or even a Christmas card in the future, but this piece is often omitted nowadays.

Reception Directions

If your reception is in a different location, it’s helpful to guests to share a reminder for where and when that will take place.

Special Notes

If you would like to ask guests not to photograph during the ceremony, the program isn’t a bad place to include that note. There could also be other things specific to your wedding that you will want to share, such as an anecdote about how the couple met, etc.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

You could present the program in a number of ways.

A folded piece, perhaps even tied with ribbon on the edge, works best for longer ceremonies. A single flat, double sided piece usually works well for most ceremonies that aren’t quite so long. A program fan is perfect for weddings in the warmer months.

Head to the next page for a few examples.....



FOLDED PROGRAMS

Top Center
Multiple pages, staple bound

Middle Left
Single page on blush paper, ribbon "bound"

Bottom Left
Single page, folded, no ribbon tie



PROGRAM FANS

Top Left

Square corners, no ribbon

Top Right

Tied with ribbon, square corners

Bottom

Tied with ribbon, rounded corners



FLAT PROGRAMS

Top

Double Sided, 5.5x8.5

Inset

Double sided, 4.25x11

Bottom Left

Double sided, with a Mad Lib, 5.5x8.5



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