

## PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS

### WEDDING TIPS TO SAVE MONEY CHECKLIST

**Cake:**

- Order a small luxury cake to cut; then order sheet cakes and cut behind the scene for guests

**Dress:**

- Purchase off season (November/December)
- Rent your dress (a great way to get that designer dress)
- Shop sample sales
- Borrow a veil (something borrowed!)

**Wedding Date:**

- Choose a less popular wedding date (October through April) to save money
- For a less expensive honeymoon, set a date for May or November when most tropical locations are off season
- Avoid Saturdays; you will get better rates from merchants for a Sunday or weekday wedding

**Invitations:**

- Create your own or seek the help of a talented friend
- Forgo inner envelopes and reply cards to cut down on postage and the added cost of cards; have replies sent via e-mail (or phone)

**Guest List:**

- Don't feel obligated to invite dates of guests, relatives many times removed or people you haven't seen in years.

**Photos:**

- Hire an art school student
- Limit the professional photos and have guests use disposable cameras

**Location:**

- Make use of low-cost venues like national parks, forest preserves or a city park
- Utilize churches, clubs or places where you are a member
- Ask for a discount

**Music:**

- Friends are a great source for wedding music or reception music
- Hire students from a college music department

**Flowers:**

- Set the date close to a holiday; some churches and reception locations will already be decorated
- A wedding in a park or preserve will already have beautiful plants
- Choose flowers that are in season at the time of the wedding
- Share flowers in a chapel with another couple marrying on the same day

**Food and Drink:**

- Limit alcohol to wine and beer only and the limit the number of hours liquor is served
- Explain your budget to the restaurant or caterer and ask for their advice to keep costs down
- Provide heavy appetizers, brunch or lunch instead of a dinner
- If children are attending, ask for children's plates at a reduced cost