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ASK US ANYTHING

I'm having a destination wedding, but I want to use a florist from my hometown. Do I have to pay for all of her travel and expenses?

The typical deal—and this goes for any vendor you fly in for your wedding—is that you're responsible for her flights, hotel, and often ground transportation, says Jill La Fleur, an event planner based in Santa Ynez, California. Your florist may also request that meals be covered, but this is negotiable. Either way, hammer out those details in the contract. No last-minute surprises!



I want all of my bridesmaids to wear the same shoes, but they're expensive. Can I ask them to pay for their own?

Your friends are springing for a dress, shower gift, wedding gift, bachelorette party, and possibly travel. Unless they're all rich enough, it's not cool to ask them to buy pricey heels too. If it isn't in your budget to purchase six pairs of Jimmy Choo as bridesmaid gifts, give your girls guidelines (gold, pump heels) and let them find a cute pair they can afford.

I want eight bridesmaids—and my fiancé has two groomsmen. How can we even the sides without rounding up half of his flag football team?

There's no rule that says you have to have the same number of bridesmaids and groomsmen. But if you want to keep things from looking lopsided at the ceremony, have two "honorary attendants" (your maid of honor and one other bridesmaid) stand next to you at the altar and ask the other girls to take a seat in the front row after the procession, suggests Chicago-based planner Berry Pedersen. When it's time to file out, the honor attendants can pair up with the groomsmen and the six bridesmaids can walk in twos.

My fiancé and I have a two-year-old daughter. How can we include her on our wedding invitation?

Traditionally, the only names that would go on the invitation were the bride's, the groom's, and the hosts'. But these days, there's more room to personalization, especially if you're

going for a less formal vibe. Celebrity stylist Cherie Berry suggests adding the words "together with our daughter" or "along with our daughter" before or after your names. If you're hosting with your parents, try "together with our families."

One of my friends keeps asking me when I'm choosing my bridesmaids. I already have...and she's not one of them. How do I break the news?

Tell her ASAP. It will be way harder on her and you if she hears from someone else. If you're really close, call her and say something like "We're trying to keep the bridal party small, but I can't imagine the ceremony without you. Would you consider doing a reading?" If you're not that close, emphasize how excited you are to get down with her on the dance floor. The goal, says Charleston, South Carolina, planner Kristin Newman, is to make sure she knows that she doesn't have to be a bridesmaid to have an important role in your life—and your wedding.