

WEDDING VENDOR GUIDE

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est. 2010

MEANINGFUL

CAREFREE

ARTISTIC

FUN



VENDOR GUIDE

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WELCOME

TO YOUR NO BS VENDOR GUIDE

Hey There, Nearlyweds!

Congratulations on taking the plunge into wedding planning madness! This guide is all about cutting through the fluff and getting down to the nitty-gritty of hiring your wedding vendors, without the headache.

You don't need another "perfect day" checklist. You need a straight-shooting place to figure out which wedding vendors actually belong on your team and what they're doing for you. This guide is your no-fluff haven for sorting through wedding vendors, asking better questions, and deciding who gets a back stage pass to your day.

Inside, you'll find simple prompts, realistic price ranges, and email templates you can use to reach out without rewriting the same message 20 times. It's not about doing everything yourself, it's about getting really clear on what matters to you, what you can skip, and how to hire people who actually support that.

Grab a pen. Scribble in the margins. Cross things out. This is your working space to build a vendor team that makes planning easier and your day feel right, not the internet's idea of "wedding perfection."

BUT FIRST, A PEP TALK.

You are not behind, you are not “doing it wrong,” and you are absolutely not required to build a wedding that looks like anyone else’s. This whole process gets a lot easier when you stop catering to other’s ideas and start asking, “What would actually feel good for us?” This guide is here to back you up while you do exactly that.

The Golden Rule: Have Fun (Seriously).

You are not just “managing expenses,” you are curating a weird, wonderful season of your life. If you’re going to do this, make damn sure it’s whimsical and worth it. Planning your wedding should be just as fun as your wedding. Here’s some silly ideas to get you started.

Date Night with a Twist

Find the fanciest caterer or cake shop within driving distance that offers free tastings, get a little dressed up, and go sample like you own the place. Even if you know you’re not booking them. You’ll learn what “good” actually tastes like, figure out what you really want, and come home with stories instead of just screenshots.

Dress-Up, Comedy Version

Go to a dress or tux shop together and talk in the worst fake foreign accents you can muster. Do not try on anything you’d honestly wear. Choose the sparkliest, poofiest, most over-the-top options, take a ridiculous number of selfies and videos, and let it feel like playing dress-up instead of auditioning for “perfect.”

Crowd-Sourced Magic

If you’re leaning DIY, turn it into a community art project. Ask your people for “day-of donations”: interesting furniture, pretty linens, artwork, lamps, flowers from their gardens. Want to really lean into it? Add a tiny “BYOC (bring your own chair)” note for a backyard wedding and watch an accidental art installation appear. Tell them the colors or vibe; let them surprise you. People really like being included in small ways, especially when they can help the people they love.

Your first Goal: Think as far outside of the box as you can. Reach for what sings to you and push back on the things that do not. Then turn it into the story of how you planned your wedding.



SET YOUR BUDGET



Allocate Wisely:

It's time to get real about the funds. Break down your budget for essentials like venue, catering, attire, decor, and more. Prioritize what matters most and divvy up your funds with hard lines at the top of each category.

Keep It Real, Stay Flexible:

No beating around the bush. Be honest about your financial limits and be ready to adapt. Decide where to splurge and where to save while staying true to your vision.

Track and Adjust:

Watch those pennies! Stay on top of your spending and be prepared to make changes as needed. This budget is your guide to your wedding day without the financial stress.

Your Move:

Create a clear budget breakdown with smart allocations. Know your limits, make savvy trade-offs, and stay proactive in managing your expenses. It's your day, plan it with confidence.



YOUR WEDDING MUST HAVES

This isn't a vision board for Instagram. This is a practical tool to make your planning process easier. Write in these vendors in order of importance to you so your budget lines up with what actually matters, not what the internet says you "should" care about. Cross off the ones you don't need or care about. The average prices beside each one are there to give you real numbers, not to scare you or box you in. When you're honest about your priorities, decisions get simpler, conversations with each vendor get clearer, and planning becomes less chaotic.

Real numbers, real dreams, and a plan that actually works for you, that's the whole point here.

Vendor Options:

Venue: \$3500 - \$25,000+

Wedding Planner: \$4000 - \$10,000+

Day-of Coordinator: \$500 - \$3500

Photographer: \$3500 - \$10,000+

Videographer: \$1500 - \$7,500

Content Creator: \$500 - \$2500

Catering: \$25 - \$150+ per person

Bar: \$20 - \$100 per person

Cake/Desserts: \$300-\$800+

Florals: \$1500 - \$25,000+

Decorations: \$300 - \$5000+

Rentals: \$1000 - \$5000

DJ/Band: \$1000 - \$5000

Other Entertainment: \$200 - \$1500+

Attire: \$500 - \$5000

Hair and Makeup: \$150-\$600 per person

Officiant: \$200 - \$800

Transportation: \$500 - \$2500

Gifts & Favors: \$2 - \$15 per person

Invitations/Stationary: \$300 - \$1500

Other or Misc: \$200 - \$1500

Most Important: Add up your averages

Important: Add up your averages

Least Important: Add up your averages

TOTAL:



TRADE OFFS AND CREATIVE WORK AROUNDS

Venues: Traditional Venue vs. Creative Space

If standard venues don't fit your budget or vibe...

- Think community spaces.
- Look at public parks, 4-H clubs, YMCAs, summer camps, community centers, and retreat properties. Many have kitchens, bathrooms, and indoor/outdoor spaces for a fraction of traditional venue pricing.

Go fully "out of the box." - Baseball fields, local fairgrounds, rec parks, public pool areas, lakeside pavilions, or camp grounds can work if:

- – You can legally rent the space
- – There are restrooms or a plan for them
- – You can get power, parking, and a weather backup in place

Planning: Full Planner vs. Vendor Brain Trust

If a full wedding planner isn't in the cards: Use your vendors as your "planning board."

Ask each booked vendor what they already include:

- Photographer – typical timeline, where they like portraits, how long things really take
- Caterer – prep and service timing, realistic food flow
- DJ – how they structure reception, announcements, and dance blocks

Look for overlap:

- Lay their suggested timelines next to each other and highlight where they agree. That becomes your draft schedule, And Bam! A lot of "planning" is suddenly done.
- Fill the gaps only where needed.

If, after that, you still feel like no one is steering the ship day-of, consider just a month-of/day-of coordinator instead of full planning.

Photo/Video: All Three vs. One Anchor

If you're unsure about photographer vs. videographer vs. content creator:

Ask yourselves one question:

"What's the one tangible thing we want most after our wedding?"

- If it's prints and heirloom albums → prioritize photographer.
- If it's hearing vows and speeches and reliving movement → prioritize videographer.
- If it's fast, shareable clips → prioritize content creator.

You don't have to max out your budget on all three. Which could be:

- A smaller package?
- A more budget-friendly vendor?
- Something a trusted loved ones could handle with clear instructions?

Food: Full Catering vs. Community Table

If spending thousands on one meal haunts you at night:

- Potluck with purpose.
- Invite guests to bring a favorite family dish and the recipe to add to your first family recipe book. You'll end up with a table full of stories, not just food.

Cater the anchor, DIY the rest.

- Order just the main dish or protein from your favorite caterer or restaurant, then let family and friends fill out sides, salads, or desserts. If you don't want to ask your loved ones, order your sides from local grocery stores or chain restaurants.

Music: DJ/Band vs. DIY

If you want to skip a DJ/band or you don't want an MC:

Sit down with your partner; drinks, snacks, and a laptop or host a playlist get together / karaoke session with your wedding party.

Then build actual playlists for:

- Ceremony / pre-ceremony
- Entrances
- Cocktail hour / dinner
- First + parent dances
- Dance party

Add a story layer.

- Ask every married couple you're inviting to send "their" wedding song. Drop those into cocktail or dinner playlists so the room is full of tiny love stories, not just background noise.

Buy some good speakers, and have a dedicated device to save your playlists on in order.

- Assign a "music Captain": Enlist one trusted friend to be in charge of hitting play, fade, and skip so you're not DJing your own wedding from your phone.

Florals: Full Design vs. Simple + Sourced

If you don't want to spend \$5,000+ on flowers:

- Invest in one special bouquet: Hire a florist for your bouquet (and maybe one or two key pieces) using in-season, local flowers. Let that be your "art piece."

Crowdsource the rest.

- Ask guests with gardens if they'd be willing to donate blooms or greenery for the day. Do a casual picking day in fields (where it's allowed) and turn it into a pre-wedding memory.
- Hunt local deals.: Watch for plant auctions or sales at local greenhouses, farm stands, or Amish communities. You can often get beautiful plants or buckets of flowers for a fraction of traditional floral pricing.

Rentals: Traditional Company vs. Community Resources

If rental quotes are making your eye twitch:

Start with community spaces.

- Call the local chamber of commerce, American Legion, VFW/Amvets, Lions/Rotary clubs, churches, fire stations, and schools. Many rent tables, chairs, and basic linens for very little, usually just a donation. Some will even deliver and pick up.

Mix sources.

- Use a big rental company only for specialty or “must have” items (tents, dance floor, generators) and fill in basics from community or borrowed sources.

Hair, Makeup, Building, Babysitters: Local Talent

If pro pricing feels out of reach:

Check local programs.

- Look at educational programs in the area for cosmetology, culinary, carpentry, and childcare students. Many are already qualified and need real-world hours; you can often hire them at a lower rate while still paying them fairly for their time and skills.

Use pros where it counts most.

- Maybe you hire a pro for your own hair/makeup and let talented friends or students handle the wedding party, or hire a building student to create your ceremony arch.

Gifts & Favors: Money vs. Meaning

If favors and gifts feel like a money pit:

- Notes instead of trinkets.
- Write a short memory for each guest and leave it at their seat or on a photo wall. Old photo with them? Even better, write your note and the year on the back and dual purpose them for your seating chart.

Cleanup Crews: Your Future Self Will Thank You

If the idea of post-wedding cleanup makes you want to stay in bed in the morning:

Hire a “closing crew.”

- If your venue or planner doesn't offer teardown, contact local house cleaners, camp cleaning crews, or small cleaning businesses and ask if they'll take on a late-night or next-morning job.

Build it into the plan now.

- Decide beforehand who is responsible for what: décor, rentals, trash, leftovers, found items. Your tired, newly-married self will be very grateful.

YOUR WEDDING VENDOR NON-NEGOTABLES

Making your way Through the Vendor Maze: It's time to roll up your sleeves and tackle the vendor hustle. Each vendor plays a crucial role. Here's the lowdown on selecting the dream team for your once in a lifetime celebration. Skip the vendors you do not need and dive into the ones that you do. Utilize the email templates when reaching out to them.

Venue: Your venue is the place that holds everything—your people, your ceremony, your meal, your dance floor, and all the logistics that come with them. It affects your budget, your guest count, your photos, the weather backup plan, and how simple or complicated the day feels. In the Adirondacks, that might look like barns, lodges, backyards, state parks, small inns, or hotels on the lake.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Roughly \$3,500 on the very low end (simple spaces / weekday / off-season) up to \$25,000+ for full-service barns, resorts, or all-weekend venues with lodging.

Reality check: Your venue choice can simplify or complicate everything else, especially rentals, catering, weather backup, and transportation.

What are your needs?

Preferred style/vibe:

Indoor, outdoor, or both?

Max distance from home / lodging we're okay with:

Non-negotiables:

Max guest count we need them to handle:

Must-have ceremony option: Indoor / Outdoor / Both / Flexible backup (circle one)

Weather backup we're comfortable with (tents, indoor room, etc.)

What we'd like included vs. what we're okay renting:

We'd really like the venue to include (circle all that matter):

Tables / Chairs / Linens / Dishes / Glassware / Getting-ready spaces / On-site lodging / Parking / Accessible restrooms

We're okay renting or arranging separately:

Rules or limitations that matter to us:

(Think: noise cutoff time, sparkler or candle rules, alcohol policy, preferred vendors only, etc.)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Venue for [date]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date] (flexible? yes/no)

Guest count: [approx number]

We're looking for a venue that can host our ceremony and reception. Our rough priorities are:

– Spaces: [indoor / outdoor / both]

– Needs: [tables/chairs included? on-site getting-ready space? weather backup? lodging?]

Rough budget for venue rental: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

– If you're available on our date (or close dates)

– What your rental includes (spaces, hours, what's provided)

– Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,

[Your names]

A QUICK REMINDER

With your venue secured, it's time for a gut check: DIY vs. Full-Service. Before you commit to hand-making 150 centerpieces, honestly envision the time and logistical energy required. Consider your budget, but also consider your peace of mind. Sometimes, shifting your budget to hire a professional isn't just an expense—it's an investment in your own ability to actually enjoy your wedding day.

Wedding Planner: A wedding planner is the person who keeps the whole puzzle from living in your head. They help you build a realistic budget, find and book vendors, map out timelines, and troubleshoot details long before the day arrives so you're not doing it all at midnight with 47 tabs open. Think of them as the calm "project manager" for your wedding, freeing you up to actually enjoy being engaged instead of treating planning like a second job.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: \$4,000–\$10,000+ for full-service planning, less for partial or month-of.

Reality check: This is usually one of the bigger line items, but it often saves couples time, stress, and expensive last-minute mistakes.

What are your needs?

We'd love a planner who has experience with:

(e.g., "outdoor/mountain weddings," "neurodivergent guests," "blended families," "smaller/weird venues")

Design help we actually want:

(e.g., "help pulling together a vibe," "mood board + rentals," "we already have a vision, just need logistics")

Extra support that would lower our stress:

(e.g., "vendor recommendations we can trust," "budget check-ins," "help organizing pre-wedding events")

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Planner for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We're looking for: full-service / partial / month-of planning.

Our top priorities are:

- [priority #1, e.g. budget + vendor sourcing]
- [priority #2, e.g. timeline + logistics]
- [priority #3, optional]

Rough budget for planning: [your price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- A basic overview of your planning services
- Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,
[Your names]

Day-of Coordinator: A day-of coordinator steps in near the end of planning to run the actual wedding day so you don't have to be the point person. They confirm details with vendors, build and run the timeline, manage set-up and transitions, and handle problems behind the scenes so you can stay with your people instead of answering questions. Think of them as the manager of the day itself, not the person designing the whole wedding from scratch.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Approximately \$500–\$3,500 for month-of or day-of coordination, depending on hours, travel, and scope.

Reality check: If you're doing most of the planning yourselves, a coordinator can be the difference between "we juggled logistics all day" and "we actually got to be present."

What are your needs?

We'd love a coordinator who can handle:

Our timeline and keeping everything on schedule (yes / no / maybe)

Vendor check-ins and arrivals (yes / no / maybe)

Ceremony + reception set-up of décor we provide (yes / no / maybe)

Managing transitions (ceremony → cocktail hour → reception) (yes / no / maybe)

Wrapping up/packing personal items at the end of the night (yes / no / maybe)

Things we really don't want to manage ourselves on the day: "family dynamics," "DIY décor set-up," "rain plan," "timing"

Where we most need backup:

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Day-of Coordinator for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We've planned most of our wedding and are looking for:

– [day-of / month-of coordination]

– Help with: [timeline] / [vendor management] / [set-up + breakdown] (edit as needed)

Rough budget for coordination: [your range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

– If you're available on our date

– What your coordination package includes

– Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,

[Your names]

Photographer: Your photographer documents the day so you can actually be present in it. Capturing real moments, important relationships, and the in-between pieces you'll forget were there. They make decisions about where to be, how to use light, how much to direct you, and how to tell the story of your day in a way that still feels like you years from now.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Often \$3,500–\$10,000+ for full-day wedding coverage, depending on hours, experience, and what's included.

Reality check: These are the images that outlive the day. If photos are important to you, this is usually a place to align budget with priority.

How we want the day to feel in photos:

Our comfort level with photos: "We dread them" / "Nervous but open" / "Pretty comfortable" (circle one)

We lean more toward: Mostly candid / Candid + some gentle direction / Lots of posing (circle one)

Parts of the day that matter most: Getting ready / First look / Ceremony / Family photos / Reception moments / Late-night / Exit (circle)

Approximate hours we think we'll need: 1-3 / 4-6 / 6-8 / 8-10 (circle one)

Deliverables that matter most: We care most about (rank 1-3): Digital gallery / Printed album / Prints / Wall art / Something else (circle)

How soon we'd like to see photos after the wedding (ideal):

Any sensitivities your photographer should know:

("family dynamics," "people who don't want to be photographed," "grief/loss around certain people," etc.)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Photographer for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

Photography Coverage: [approx hours you will need]

We're looking for a photographer whose work feels [adjective: candid / documentary / a mix of candid + guided portraits / other]. We're generally [how you feel: camera-shy / a bit nervous / comfortable] in front of a camera.

Rough budget for photography: [Price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What your wedding coverage typically includes (hours, deliverables, etc.)
- Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,
[Your names]

If I'm already your photographer, you can use this page to tell me what matters most to you. We'll go over it together before your day.



Videographer: A videographer records movement, sound, and the in-between moments that photos can't hold; your vows, voices, speeches, and the way things actually unfolded. They decide how much of the day to cover, what style to film in (cinematic, documentary, or a mix), and how your final films are edited and delivered

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Often around \$1,500–\$7,500+ depending on hours, number of shooters, and what visuals are included.

Reality check: If hearing vows, speeches, and voices years from now matters to you, videography may be worth prioritizing; if not, it's okay for this to sit lower on the list.

What are your needs?

We lean more toward: Cinematic highlight / Documentary / Mix of both (circle one)

What matters most to us on video? Full Ceremony / Speeches / First Looks / Dances / Candid Moments

Approximate hours we think we'll need: 1-3 / 4-6 / 6-8 / 8-10 (circle one)

Parts of the day we don't need filmed:

Deliverables that matter most:

We care most about (rank 1–3): Highlight Reel / Full Ceremony / Full Speeches / Longer "full day" Film / Raw Footage or Unedited clips (circle)

How soon we'd like to see photos after the wedding (ideal):

Any sensitivities your photographer should know:

("family dynamics," "people who don't want to be photographed," "grief/loss around certain people," etc.)

Any preferences or sensitivities: "not big on super posed/'cinematic' stuff," "want minimal cameras in guests' faces," "no drone," etc.)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Videographer for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

Videography Coverage: [approx hours you will need]

We're looking for videography that feels [cinematic / documentary / a mix]. What matters most to us is having: [highlight film / full ceremony / speeches / other key pieces]

Rough budget for videography: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What your packages typically include (films + hours)
- Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,
[Your names]

Content Creator: A wedding content creator is an add-on vendor who films your day on a phone (usually vertically) to create short, social-ready clips and behind-the-scenes moments. They focus on candid, real-time content and quick turnaround—often delivering raw clips or edited Reels/TikToks within 24 hours, while your photographer and videographer focus on long-term, polished coverage.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Often around \$500–\$2,500+ depending on hours, number of creators, and how many edited videos are included

Reality check: This is a “nice-to-have” extra for most couples. If you know you won’t post much or don’t care about next-day content, it may not need to be high on your list.

What are your needs?

How important is social media content to us? Not important / Somewhat important / Very important

What we’d actually use: check all that apply

Short vertical highlight clips (Reels/TikToks)

Raw behind-the-scenes footage we can edit later

Ready-to-post recap within 24–48 hours

Trend / transition videos (lip syncs, etc.)

Approximate hours we think we’ll need: 1-3 / 4-6 / 6-8 / 8-10 (circle one)

Parts of the day that matter most: Getting ready / First look / Ceremony / Family photos / Reception moments / Late-night / Exit (circle)

We prefer content that feels: Subtle/documentary / Trendy/fun / Mix of both (circle one)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Content Creator for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We’re considering a content creator in addition to our photographer/videographer. We’re mainly interested in:

– [short vertical highlight clips / raw BTS footage / ready-to-post Reels/TikToks]

– Approx. [X–Y] hours of coverage.

Rough budget for content creation: [range or “TBD, need ballpark”].

Can you please share:

– If you’re available on our date

– What your packages typically include (hours, type of content, delivery timing)

– Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,

[Your names]

Catering: Catering feeds your people and sets the tone for the reception—whether that's a plated dinner, buffet, stations, or something more casual. It affects budget per guest, service style, rentals, and how easy it is for guests to actually get fed and back to the party.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Many couples plan roughly \$15–\$150+ per guest for food, depending on service style and menu.

Reality check: Food and service style will be one of your biggest line items. Clear priorities here prevent surprise invoices and “we didn't think about that” stress later.

What are your needs?

Service style we're leaning toward: Plated / Buffet / Family-style / Stations / Heavy apps only

Guest experience we want with food: More formal and seated / Mixed / Very relaxed and social (circle one)

We care most about: Taste and quality / Big portions / guests feel full / Speed of service / no long lines / Presentation / how it looks

Dietary needs we know we have: vegetarian / vegan / gluten-free / allergies / cultural needs

What we'd like included vs. separate: Appetizers / Main meal / Dessert / Late-night snacks / Non-alcoholic drinks

Things we're okay arranging separately (dessert, late-night, etc.)

Logistics we need them to be solid on:

Our venue has a full kitchen: yes / no / not sure

We'll need help with:

Staff for service

Bussing tables

Trash/cleanup plan

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Catering for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town] (kitchen on-site? yes/no/not sure)

Guest count: [approx number]

We're leaning toward: [plated / buffet / family-style / stations / heavy apps] and want the reception to feel [more formal / relaxed / in-between].

Dietary needs we know we have: [list key items, e.g. vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, allergies, cultural needs].

Rough budget for food (excluding bar): [price range or “TBD, need ballpark”].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- Service styles you offer and what's included (staffing, rentals, etc.)
- Sample menus and starting pricing per guest

Thank you,
[Your names]

Bar: The bar covers alcohol service at your wedding—anything from beer and wine only to a full open bar with cocktails. It affects your budget per guest, guest experience, and how simple or complicated your reception feels.

Typical range in this region: Many couples see bar costs around \$20–\$100+ per guest depending on bar type (beer/wine only, standard, premium) and length of service.

Reality check: An open bar can be one of the bigger expenses; limited or partial options can save money without killing the atmosphere.

What are your needs?

Type of bar we're leaning toward: Open bar / Limited bar (beer & wine + maybe 1–2 signature cocktails) / Time-limited open bar (e.g. cocktail hour + first part of reception) / Cash bar

For us, bar priority is more about: Guest experience / Budget savings / Somewhere in the middle (circle one)

Our Crowd: Mostly light drinkers / Mixed / Heavy drinkers (circle one)

What we want included: Beer / Wine / Basic mixed drinks / Signature cocktails / Champagne toast / Non-alcoholic options

We want the bar open for about: 3–4 hours / 4–5 hours / 5–6+ hours (circle one)

Logistics + rules to check:

Who is providing the alcohol? Venue / Caterer / Separate bar service / Us (if allowed)

Things we need clarity on:

Bartender fees

Setup/tear-down fees

Insurance / licensing

Gratuity / tip jars

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Bar Service for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We're leaning toward: [open bar / limited bar (beer + wine + maybe cocktails) / time-limited open bar / cash bar]. We'd like to offer: [beer, wine, basic mixed drinks, signature cocktails, non-alcoholic options].

Bar service length we're thinking: [X–Y] hours.

Rough budget for bar service: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

– If you're available on our date

– Bar packages you offer (what's included + per-person or consumption pricing)

– Any extra fees (bartenders, setup, service charge, gratuity)

Thank you,

[Your names]

Florals: Flowers (or floral alternatives) shape how your spaces feel—bouquets, boutonnieres, ceremony pieces, and table arrangements at minimum. They can be simple and minimal or a big design feature, and they affect both budget and how much set-up/teardown is needed.

Typical range: Many couples spend roughly \$1,500–\$25,000+ on wedding florals, with smaller/more minimal designs on the lower end and larger installs or premium blooms on the higher end.

Reality check: You don't have to put flowers everywhere. Focusing on high-visibility areas (bouquet, ceremony, head table, a few key tables) and repurposing pieces can stretch your budget a long way.

What are your needs?

We lean more toward: Minimal + simple / A few key statement pieces / Lush and full (circle one)

Colors or general feel we're drawn to:

Check what truly matters to you (everything else is "nice if budget allows").

Personal flowers (bouquet(s), boutonnieres, corsages)

Ceremony focal (arch, ground pieces, altar flowers)

Aisle markers

Centerpieces for guest tables

Head/sweetheart table florals

Cake flowers / small accents

We're open to repurposing ceremony flowers at the reception: Yes / No / Maybe (circle one)

Ideas we like: "aisle flowers moved to guest tables," "arch flowers moved behind sweetheart table," etc.

Are we open to seasonal and florist-chosen blooms to stay on budget? Yes / No / Maybe (circle one)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Florals for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We're leaning toward a floral look that feels [minimal / a few key statement pieces / lush] in [general colors or vibe].

Our must-have items are: [e.g. bouquet(s), boutonnieres, ceremony focal, head table, a few centerpieces], and we're [open / not open] to repurposing ceremony flowers for the reception.

Rough budget for florals: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What you typically recommend at our budget level
- Whether you offer ways to repurpose arrangements between ceremony and reception

Thank you,
[Your names]

Decorations: Decorations are all the non-floral visual details—candles, signage, table numbers, linens, backdrops, seating charts, and personal touches. They fill in what your venue and florals don't cover and help the space feel like your story without needing to buy everything new.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Anywhere from a few hundred dollars for mostly DIY/borrowed pieces up to a few thousand if you're bringing in a lot of décor or hiring a stylist.

Reality check: You do not have to decorate every corner. A few intentional areas (ceremony, head table, bar, dessert table, entrance) usually have the biggest impact.

What are your needs?

Where decorations matter most to us: Check 3–5 that actually feel important:

- Ceremony entrance or aisle
- Arch/altar area (if not covered fully by florals)
- Welcome sign / entry table
- Seating chart / place card
- Guest tables
- Head/sweetheart table
- Cake/dessert table
- Bar area

Style words that feel like us: "rustic", "artsy", "boho", ect.

How much DIY we realistically want to do: Minimal / Some / A lot (circle one)

We can borrow or already have:

We need help sourcing or renting:

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Décor for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: approx [number]

We're looking for help with décor for: [ceremony / welcome/entry / guest tables / head table / bar / dessert table] (edit as needed). Our overall style is [a few words: e.g. simple, romantic, colorful, minimal].

We're open to: [renting pieces / using your in-house inventory / a mix of our items + yours].

Rough décor budget: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What services you offer (design, setup, teardown, rentals, etc.)
- Typical pricing or package range for something at our scale

Thank you,
[Your names]

Rentals: Rentals are the backbone pieces your venue doesn't include: tables, chairs, linens, dishes, glassware, flatware, tents, heaters, generators, restrooms, etc. They affect comfort, weather backup, and how much set-up/tear-down work needs to happen.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Can run from around \$800 on the low end (just a few basics) to \$5,000+ if you need tents, full place settings, and furniture for a larger guest count.

Reality check: Before you fall in love with décor ideas, it helps to know what your venue actually provides and what you'd need to rent separately.

What are your needs?

What the venue includes vs. doesn't: (Use this as a checklist to verify with the venue.)

- Tables
- Chairs
- Basic linens
- Dishes / glassware / flatware
- Ceremony seating
- Dance floor
- Tent / indoor backup
- Not included / unsure:

What we'll likely need to rent: Circle or check what applies:

- Extra tables (dessert, gifts, buffet, etc.)
- Different chairs (than the venue's)
- Linens in specific colors/sizes
- Dishes / glassware / flatware
- Tent(s) / heaters / fans
- Ceremony arch/structure
- Lounge furniture

Weather + logistics: Our backup plan may require:

- Tent(s)
- Sidewalls / heaters
- Floor or subfloor
- Additional lighting
- Generator / power

We need a rental company that can:

- Deliver to our location
- Handle setup
- Handle teardown/pickup

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Rentals for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: approx [number]

Our venue provides: [brief list, e.g. tables and basic chairs], and we're looking to rent:

- [tables / chairs / linens / dishes / glassware / flatware]
- [tent(s) / heaters / dance floor / lighting]
- [other specific items].

Delivery/setup location details: [indoor/outdoor, tent, barn, backyard, etc.].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- A basic quote or price list for the items above
- Info on delivery, setup, teardown, and minimums

Thank you,
[Your names]

Thank you,
[Your names]

DJ, Band, or Both: Your DJ or band controls the sound and pace of your reception—ceremony music, intros, first dances, background during dinner, and the actual party. They also usually act as MC: making announcements, keeping the timeline moving, and reading the room so the dance floor doesn't die.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: DJs are often around \$1,000–\$5,000+ depending on hours, equipment, and experience. Bands can be \$3,000–\$8,000+ depending on size and length of performance.

Reality check: Music and MC work are a big part of whether your reception feels awkward or easy and fun. The right fit matters more than how many speakers or lights they bring.

What are your needs?

We lean more toward: DJ / Band / Either, as long as the vibe is right (circle one)

Our ideal dance floor feels: High-energy all night / Mixed (some dancing, some talking) / Low-key (circle one)

Must-play genres or artists that come to mind:

Absolutely-not songs/genres that come to mind:

We prefer an MC who is: Low-key / In-between / Very interactive (circle one)

Things we want them to handle on mic:

Intros

Announcing speeches/toasts

First dances

Cake cutting / formalities

Open/close dance floor

Approx hours of coverage: 4–5 / 5–6 / 6–7+

Our venue has: Sound restrictions or volume limits / Outdoor setup / Multiple spaces to cover (ceremony + reception)

We need them to also provide: Ceremony sound & mics / Cocktail hour music / Dance floor lighting

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – DJ/Band for [date] at [venue/location]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Venue/location: [venue + town]

Guest count: [approx number]

We're looking for a [DJ / band] for about [X–Y] hours of coverage, including: [ceremony sound? cocktail hour? reception only?]. Our priority is a reception that feels [high-energy / mixed / low-key] and an MC style that is [low-key / in-between / very interactive].

Rough budget for music/MC: [price range or "TBD, need ballpark"].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What your packages typically include (hours, sound for ceremony, lighting, MC)
- Starting pricing or package range

Thank you,
[Your names]

Hair & Makeup: Hair and makeup artists handle how you and your people feel walking into the day—on camera, in person, and in every mirror. They also control a big piece of the getting-ready timeline, which can either feel calm and organized or rushed and chaotic.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: Often around \$150–\$600+ for the bride (hair + makeup combined) and \$75–\$200 per person for wedding party/family, depending on services, trials, and travel.

Reality check: Good hair and makeup isn't about looking unlike yourself. It's about feeling like your best self and not worrying about your look falling apart halfway through the day. Trials and realistic timing help keep the morning calm.

What are your needs?

We want to feel: Like ourselves, just polished / Glam / Soft & natural (circle one)

Things I do NOT want (hair/makeup-wise):

Who needs professional hair and/or makeup: (Write numbers or names next to each.)

Bride: _____

Partner: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Parents / important family: _____

Others (officiant, friends, etc.): _____

Trials + products: Do we want a trial? Yes / No / Maybe (circle one)

Skin/hair concerns or sensitivities they should know about:

Timeline + logistics:

Where we want services done: Venue / Home / Salon / Airbnb (circle one)

Our ceremony time: _____

Ideal time to be fully ready by: _____

We need help building a realistic hair + makeup schedule: Yes / No (circle one)

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Subject: Inquiry – Wedding Hair & Makeup for [date] near [town/venue]

Hi [Name],

Wedding date: [date]

Getting-ready location: [venue / hotel / Airbnb + town]

Ceremony time: [time]

Services we're looking for:

- Hair for: [bride, number in party, etc.]
- Makeup for: [bride, number in party, etc.]
- Trial: [yes / no / maybe].

We're hoping for a look that feels [natural / soft glam / full glam] and need everything finished by around [time].

Can you please share:

- If you're available on our date
- What's included in your bridal package (trial, lashes, travel fees, etc.)
- Approx. timing per person and a starting price range

Thank you,
[Your names]

Attire, Officiant, Transportation, Stationery, Cake/Dessert, Gifts & Misc.:

These are the quiet line items that don't always get their own Pinterest board but absolutely show up on your invoice. What you wear, who marries you, how everyone gets around, what you mail, how you end the meal, how you say thank you, and all the little "we didn't think of that" costs. Together, they shape comfort, flow, and how the day feels for you and your people more than any single centerpiece ever could.

Typical range in the Adirondacks: All together, these categories often land around 10–20% of a wedding budget once you add them up (attire and beauty, stationery, transportation, officiant, cake/dessert, gifts/favors, and a small misc/emergency buffer).

Reality check: None of these have to be over-the-top, but ignoring them is how couples get surprised at the end. A few honest numbers here—plus a little 5–10% buffer for "misc." and last-minute things—will keep you from feeling nicked-and-dimed later.

Attire:

Who will need a wedding-day outfits we're thinking about financially? Couple / Wedding party / Parents / Other (circle all that apply)

How we want to feel in our clothes: Comfortable / Classic / Dramatic / Low-key / Easy to move in (circle any)

Pieces we know we'll need:

- Dress / jumpsuit / outfit
- Suit / tux
- Shoes
- Accessories (veil, jewelry, ties, etc.)
- Weather backup layers (jackets, shawls, boots)

Do we have a plan for alterations? Yes / No

Things we're worried about (fit, comfort, sensory issues):

How much we realistically want to spend (total for our attire):

\$_____ (even a rough number helps guide choices)

Officiant:

Type: Religious / Secular / Friend or family member (circle one)
Tone of ceremony: Formal / Light & warm / Very personal (circle one)
Must-have elements (vows, readings, traditions)

Transportation:

Who needs transportation? Couple / Wedding party / Guests / Family (circle all that apply)
Distance between locations (getting ready → ceremony → reception):

Any mobility or access needs to consider:

Invitations & Stationery: How Many?

- Save-the-dates
- Invitations + RSVP
- Day-of (programs, menus, place cards)
- Thank-you cards

Overall feel: Simple / Formal / Playful / Minimal (circle one)

Cake / Dessert

- Traditional cake
- Dessert table
- Non-traditional (pie, donuts, etc.)

Serving style: Just enough for a taste / Everyone gets a full dessert

Gifts & Favors

Do we want favors at all? Yes / No / Maybe (circle one)
If yes, we'd like something that is: Useful / Edible / Charitable / Keepsake (circle one)

Other / Misc.

Other vendors or details we're considering:

CONGRATULATIONS YOU MADE IT THROUGH THE VENDOR MAZE

You just did the hard part: you got honest about what you actually need and what you really don't. Before you sprint into the next step, give yourself a few days (or a week) to let this sink in. Turn off wedding planning mode. Go live your regular life. When wedding stuff pops up in conversation or online this week, look at it with these new eyes and ask, "Does this line up with what we decided matters, or is it just noise?" Let your answers here marinate before you move on to the preferred vendor list. Future you will make clearer, calmer choices because you paused instead of panic-booking.

And if you're looking at social media on this in-between week, let it be a little fun. Screenshot things that make you smile, not just things you "should probably save." Send each other ridiculous wedding or decor ideas just because they make you laugh. Treat this like a slow scavenger hunt for what feels fun to you, not a race to collect every wedding trend the internet throws at you.

When you're ready to dive back in, flip the page to take a peek at a collection of Northern Adirondack wedding vendors who may meet your needs.



VENUES

All-Inclusive Venues

For couples who want one place to handle most of the heavy lifting (space, food, staff, often lodging). These are great for people who don't want to manage a dozen separate contracts and love the idea of a "one stop" experience.

1. Rainbow Wedding & Banquet Hall | Altona, NY
 - Website: <https://rainbowbanquethall.com>
 - Contact: (518) 236-5030
 - Capacity: 25 – 720 guests (Multiple room options available)
 - Price Range: \$1,050 – \$2,650 for basic packages; full-service receptions average \$15,000+
2. Hotel Saranac, Curio Collection by Hilton | Saranac Lake, NY
 - Website: <https://hotelsaranac.com>
 - Contact: (518) 891-6900
 - Capacity: Up to 182 guests
 - Price Range: \$6,000 – \$20,000+; Catering typically starts around \$90 per person
3. Whiteface Lodge | Lake Placid, NY
 - Website: <https://thewhitelodge.com>
 - Contact: (518) 523-0505
 - Capacity: Up to 170 guests
 - Price Range: \$25,000 – \$50,000+ total spend; Site fees range \$3,000 – \$4,500

Hybrid / Semi-DIY Venues

Barns, camps, lodges, and community properties that give you the land/building and some basics (tables, chairs, maybe kitchen access), but let you bring in your own vendors and décor. These are ideal if you want flexibility and control without fully building everything from nothing.

1. Valcour Inn and Boathouse | Peru, NY
 - Website: <https://valcourinn.com>
 - Contact: (518) 564-3054
 - Capacity: 170 (Boathouse); 85 (Inn); 225 (Tented Lawn)
 - Price Range: \$4,200 – \$9,000 rental (Requires use of their exclusive catering partner)
2. The Barn at Bracy's | Chateaugay, NY
 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/bracysbarn/>
 - Contact: (518) 521-9260
 - Capacity: Up to 350 guests
 - Price Range: \$2,000 – \$5,000 site rental; brings high flexibility for DIY couples

Elopement & Micro-Wedding Spots

Small lodges, inns, lakeside retreats, gardens, and overlooks that specialize in 2-30 person celebrations with simple packages. Perfect for couples who want something intimate, scenic, and lower-stress, often with built-in elopement or micro-wedding options.

1. The Bark Eater Inn | Keene, NY
 - Website: <https://barkeaterinn.com>
 - Contact: (518) 576-2221
 - Capacity: Up to 50 guests (Specializes in groups of 2-20)
 - Price Range: Micro-wedding and elopement packages typically start around \$3,500
2. The Fern Lodge | Chestertown, NY
 - Website: <https://thefernlodge.com>
 - Contact: (518) 494-7238
 - Capacity: 2 – 20 guests maximum
 - Price Range: \$7,100 – \$11,000 for full property elopement buyouts (includes lodging)
3. Warner's Camp | Jay, NY
 - Website: <https://warnerscamp.com>
 - Contact: Reach out via website or Instagram (@warnerscamp)
 - Capacity: Best for groups of 12-25
 - Price Range: Premium weekend buyouts (High-end riverside retreat with lodging included)

WEDDING PLANNERS

Full-Service Wedding Planners

Full-service planners are the lead architects of your wedding day, guiding you through every step of the process from the moment you get engaged. They handle the complex logistics of vendor sourcing, budget management, and aesthetic design, ensuring that every element—from the invitations to the late-night snacks—aligns with your overall vision and style.

Hiring a full-service professional is ideal for couples with busy schedules or those planning a destination wedding in the Adirondacks from out of town. These experts have deep roots in the local community and can navigate regional nuances, like managing private estate rentals or remote mountain logistics, providing you with total peace of mind throughout the planning journey.

Day-Of & Month-Of Coordinators

Coordination services are designed for the couple who wants to be hands-on during the planning phase but wants to "clock out" and be a guest on their actual wedding day. These professionals typically step in about 30 to 60 days before the event to take over vendor communications, finalize the minute-by-minute timeline, and walk through the rehearsal with your wedding party.

On the day of the wedding, your coordinator acts as the primary point of contact for all vendors and guests, handling everything from setting up your personal decor to managing any unexpected hiccups behind the scenes. They ensure that the ceremony starts on time and the reception flows naturally, allowing you and your family to focus entirely on the celebration.

1. Placid Planner Weddings | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://placidplanner.com>
- Contact: (518) 593-3259 | Elexis@placidplanner.com
- Capacity: Specialized in boutique destination events and luxury private estates
- Price Range: Custom flat-fee investment based on event scale and complexity

2. VanBee & Co. | Saranac Lake, NY

- Website: <https://www.vanbeeco.com>
- Contact: (518) 524-2517 | katy@vanbeeco.com
- Capacity: Ranges from intimate elopements to 1,000-person community galas
- Price Range: Full-service planning typically starts around \$12,000+

3. Harlow & Dahlia Events | Brulington, VT

- Website: <https://harlowdahliaevents.com>
- Contact: Reach out via [website inquiry form](#)
- Capacity: Experts in luxury tented weddings and large-scale resort events
- Price Range: Full-service design and planning typically starts at \$7,200+

1. Assorted Artistries | Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://assortedartistries.com>
- Contact: (518) 212-7829 | Hello@assortedartistries.com
- Capacity: Handles all event sizes with a focus on intentional, editorial design
- Price Range: Month-of management and coordination starts at \$3,500

2. Complete Weddings + Events | Burlington, VT

- Website: <https://completewedo.com/burlington>
- Contact: (603) 633-2848
- Capacity: Flexible for all event sizes across the Lake Champlain and Vermont regions
- Price Range: Moderate; tiered coordination packages available

VIDEOGRAPHERS & CONTENT CREATORS

Wedding Videographers

Wedding videographers are professional filmmakers who use high-end cinema cameras, drones, and audio equipment to create a polished, "movie-like" record of your day. They focus on preserving the big milestones—the exchange of vows, the speeches, and the first dance—with crystal-clear sound and cinematic visual storytelling.

A professional film allows you to hear the tremor in a voice during a toast or see the movement of the Adirondack landscape in a way that photos cannot. These studios typically deliver a 3- to 10-minute "highlight film" set to music, along with longer edits of the full ceremony and main events, providing a multi-sensory heirloom that lasts a lifetime.

Wedding Content Creators

Wedding content creators are a newer, social-media-focused service designed to give you "instant" memories. Unlike a videographer who spends weeks editing a single film, a content creator uses high-end smartphones to capture hundreds of short, behind-the-scenes video clips and candid photos, which are typically delivered to you within 24 hours of the wedding.

This service is perfect for couples who want to see their wedding through the "eyes of a guest" and have a library of vertical video clips ready for Instagram Reels or TikTok. They act as your personal paparazzi, capturing the unpolished, fun, and raw moments—like the bridal party's morning prep or dance floor shenanigans—that a traditional film crew might overlook.

1. Clark's Studios Malone, NY

- Website: <http://www.clarksstudio.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-2051 | info@clarksstudio.com
- Location: Malone, NY
- Price Range: \$2,500 – \$4,500+ (Inquire for specific 2026/2027 packages)

2. Jordan Craig Media LLC | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.jordancraigmedia.com>
- Contact: (518) 314-9046
- Location: Lake Placid, NY
- Price Range: Starts at \$2,697; Average couple spend is \$3,950+

3. Barnum Films | Rochester, NY

- Website: <https://barnumfilms.com>
- Contact: (315) 250-0667 | josh@barnumfilms.com
- Price Range: Starts at \$1,800; Most popular cinematic packages range from \$2,500 – \$4,000

1. Soocially

- Website: <https://www.sooocially.com>
- Contact: Inquire via website
- Location: Lake Placid, NY
- Price Range: Packages typically start around \$2,700 for standalone services

2. Toast (Photo, Video & Content)

- Website: <https://toastweddings.com>
- Contact: Inquire via website
- Location: Burlington, VT & Plattsburgh, NY
- Price Range: Content Creation packages start at \$949

CATERING & BAR SERVICE

Wedding Catering

Catering is the heartbeat of your reception. In our region, you have three primary styles: Plated (most formal/expensive), Buffet (social and efficient), and Food Truck/Drop-off (casual and budget-friendly). When reviewing quotes, always check if they include "the extras"—staffing, linens, and dinnerware—as these can add \$2,000–\$5,000 to your total if not included.

Out-of-the-Box Ideas

If you want to move away from a standard dinner, consider these local "creative" alternatives:

- **Pizza Party:** Order a large volume of specialty pizzas from a local favorite like Little Caesar's in Malone or Plattsburgh, NY for a late-night snack or a casual outdoor reception.
- **Farm-to-Table Grazing:** Contact local farmers at the Malone Farmers Market to source artisanal cheeses and meats for a massive DIY "grazing table" during cocktail hour.

Bar Services

Hiring a dedicated bar service ensures your guests are served professionally and safely. These local experts handle everything from crafting signature cocktails to managing the logistics of ice, glassware, and garnishes. Whether you want a high-end mixology experience or a charming vintage trailer, these local businesses are the top choices for the Malone and Northern Adirondack area.

Out-of-the-Box Bar Ideas

- **Canoe Cooler:** Since you are in the Adirondacks, many local couples use a vintage wooden canoe filled with ice to serve local craft beers (like those from Township 7 Brewing in Malone, NY).
- **Self-Serve Tap Wall:** Some local rental companies can provide "Tap Walls" where guests can pour their own cider or beer, which can save on staffing costs for smaller groups.

1. Donovan's Steak & Ale | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.donovanssteakandale.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-6350
- Price Range: \$25 – \$55 per person. A true Malone staple, they offer reliable, high-quality banquet-style catering. They are known for their hearty steaks and traditional American fare.

2. Jam Dots Food Truck | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/JamDotsBakingCo/>
- Contact: (518) 651-5079
- Price Range: \$15 – \$35 per person. For an "out-of-the-box" experience, this local food truck brings a fun, casual vibe. They specialize in gourmet sandwiches and unique comfort foods.

3. Price Chopper (Deli Pick-up) Malone & Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://www.pricechopper.com>
- Price Range: \$8 – \$20 per person. This is the ultimate budget-saving tip for DIY weddings. You can order bulk platters of subs, fried chicken, or deli salads. This "drop-off" style allows you to feed a large crowd for a fraction of the cost.

1. LBS' Bartending Service | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://localbartendingschool.com/u/malone-ny-bartending-service/>
- Contact: (877) 447-4745
- Price Range: \$150 – \$400+ for hourly service; full bar packages vary. They are highly local and offer "Alcohol Discounts & Ordering" through their relationships with distributors, even allowing you to return unused products for a refund.

2. The Traveling Sisters Mobile Bar | Northern NY

- Website: <https://thetravelingsisters.mynny.biz/>
- Contact: Inquire via website
- Price Range: \$800 – \$1,500+ depending on the package. This is a vintage 1987 horse trailer converted into a mobile bar. They provide full-service bartending and a unique "vintage" look that doubles as decor for outdoor or barn weddings.

3. The Topsy Horse | Adirondacks

- Website: <https://www.topsyhorsemobilebar.com/>
- Contact: (270) 982-4402 | tipsyhorsebar@gmail.com
- Price Range: Trailer-only rentals start at \$800; "Bartenders Only" packages start at \$1,000. They specialize in signature cocktails and provide all bar materials like shakers and mats.

CAKES & DESSERTS

Wedding Cakes & Desserts

The dessert portion of your wedding is the final sweet note of the night. In the Adirondacks, couples often lean into local flavors like maple buttercream or apple cider flavors. Whether you want a towering traditional cake or a rustic dessert spread of mini-pastries, these local artisans provide scratch-made quality and stunning mountain-inspired designs.

Out-of-the-Box Dessert Ideas

- **Gourmet Tiramisu Cups:** Instead of a traditional cake, Enuf Chocolates can create individual mini-tiramisus displayed on rustic wood stumps for a high-end, forest-inspired look.
- **Adirondack Campfire Bars:** A local favorite for dessert tables; these are elevated s'mores-style bars that give your guests the "campfire" feeling without the mess of a real fire pit.
- **Apple Cider & Donuts:** For a fall wedding, order fresh, warm donuts, Cider, and craft beer from Prairie's Orchard in Malone.

1. Different Blend Bakery | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://differentblendbakery.com>
- Contact: (518) 521-3432 | differentblendbakery@gmail.com
- Price Range: Tiered buttercream cakes start at \$4.50 per serving; Cupcakes are \$3.40 each (or \$3.00 each for 3+ dozen). This is a premier local choice for dietary-inclusive weddings, as they are a dedicated gluten-free facility that also specializes in dairy-free and vegan options.

2. Enuf Chocolates | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.enufchocolates.com>
- Contact: (518) 637-5566 | rene@enufchocolates.com
- Price Range: Buttercream cakes start at \$9.25 per slice; Fondant starts at \$10.75 per slice. Owned by chocolatier Rene, this shop is famous for tiramisu wedding cakes and "birch log" designs. They are a favorite for Lake Placid Lodge and Hotel Saranac weddings.

3. Lake Flour Cakery | Saranac Lake, NY

- Website: <http://www.adirondackweddingcakes.com>
- Contact: (518) 891-7194
- Price Range: Two-tier cakes range from \$150 to \$280; Three-tier cakes start at \$360. Led by a Certified Pastry Chef, this award-winning bakery uses scratch-made Italian Buttercream. They also offer cake stand rentals and accessories to complete your display.

4. Simply Gourmet | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.eatlakeplacid.com>
- Contact: (518) 523-3111 | simplygourmet@hotmail.com
- Price Range: Mini desserts (eclairs, cannolis, etc.) are \$30 – \$36 per dozen. They offer interactive Dessert Stations like a Shortcake Bar or Ice Cream Bar starting at \$10 per person, perfect for a less traditional dessert experience.

5. The Village Bake Shop | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://thevillagebakeshop.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-2051
- Price Range: \$50 – \$250+. A local staple for classic, reliable desserts. They offer a wide variety of Decorated Sheet Cakes and round cakes in dozens of flavor combinations, providing a high-quality option that is very budget-friendly.

5. Prairie's Orchard | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/PrairiesOrchard/>
- Contact: (518) 483-4151
- Price Range: \$12 – \$18 per dozen. This is the quintessential local choice for a fall wedding. While they don't do traditional wedding cakes, they are the go-to for Apple Cider Donuts and Fresh Pies. Using them for a late-night snack or a rustic pie bar is a major budget-saver and crowd-pleaser.

FLORALS & DECOR

Florals

Your flowers are the primary way to bring color and life into your venue. Whether you want high-drama centerpieces or simple mountain wildflowers, these local florists are the best in the North Country.

1. Fountain's Enchanted Florist Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.fountainsenchantedflorist.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-3490
- Price Range: \$150 – \$3,000+. A staple in the Malone community. They are known for being incredibly flexible with budgets and can handle everything from a single custom bridal bouquet to full-reception floral installations.

2. Black Swan Floral Design | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.blackswanfloral.com>
- Contact: (518) 523-2895
- Price Range: \$3,000 – \$8,000+. If you are looking for artful, intentional, and slightly "moody" Adirondack designs, this is the premier choice. They specialize in using unique textures and native foliage to create high-end mountain aesthetics.

3. Lake Placid Flower and Gift | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.lakeplacidflowerandgift.com>
- Contact: (518) 523-9494
- Price Range: \$500 – \$5,000+. A full-service florist with decades of experience in the High Peaks. They are excellent at traditional wedding styles and offer a wide range of rental items like vases and arches to complement your blooms.

4. The Village Florist | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.malonevillageflorist.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-4050
- Price Range: \$200 – \$2,500+. Another fantastic Malone local option. They are highly regarded for their customer service and their ability to create beautiful, classic arrangements that are very budget-friendly.

Decorations

While many rental companies provide basics, these vendors and ideas help you layer in the specific Adirondack "look" you want.

1. Adirondack Decorative Arts & Crafts | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.adirondackart.com>
- Contact: (518) 523-4545
- Price Range: Varies by item. While primarily a retail store, they are a goldmine for "North Country" decor. You can source authentic birch-bark vases, pinecone accents, and rustic wooden signage here to give your rental tables a high-end, lodge-inspired finish.

2. Regional "DIY" Decor Strategy | Malone & Plattsburgh, NY

- The Idea: Many couples in the region utilize local resources for a "mountain-chic" aesthetic. Use cross-cut wood slabs from local sawmills as centerpieces and vintage lanterns sourced from local antique shops like Antique & Variety Mall in Plattsburgh.
- Price Range: \$200 – \$800 for a full DIY decor suite.

GREENHOUSES & HANGING FLORALS

Greenhouses & Hanging Florals

If you want lush, "living" decor like hanging baskets, ferns, or porch planters, these local growers offer healthier and more affordable plants than large retailers.

1. Carla's Greenery | Malone, NY

- Website: <http://carlasgreenery.com>
- Contact: (518) 483-9452
- What they offer: Known as the best in Malone for quality and price, Carla has multiple greenhouses full of hanging baskets, annuals, and perennials. They also specialize in custom planters for homes and businesses, which can serve as stunning entrance decor for your venue.

2. Mossbrook Roots Flower Farm | Keeseville, NY

- Website: <https://mossbrookroots.com>
- Contact: (518) 420-3197
- What they offer: This is a seasonal flower farm and greenhouse. In addition to full floral services, they offer locally grown cut flowers and seasonal bouquets. They are a great choice if you want that "just-picked-from-the-garden" look for your centerpieces.

DIY & Budget Floral Hacks

If you are looking to supplement your professional florals with DIY arrangements, these local options are your best bet.

1. Price Chopper / Market 32 (Malone, Lake Placid, & Plattsburgh)

- The Hack: Their floral departments are surprisingly robust. You can pre-order cut flowers and greenery in bulk buckets, which is significantly cheaper for filling out non-essential areas like the bar or bathrooms. They also offer premade bouquets that can be broken down into smaller bud vases.

2. Local Farmer's Markets (Many in Surrounding Areas)

- The Idea: During the summer and fall, local growers at the Malone Farmers Market or Saranac Lake Village Farmers Market sell high-quality, seasonal blooms. Buying several "market bouquets" the morning of your wedding is a great way to get fresh, vibrant flowers for a fraction of the cost.

Rustic Floral & Decor Add-ons

To complete the look of your greenhouse-sourced greenery, these items add that final Adirondack touch.

- Hanging Planter Hardware: If your venue doesn't have hooks, Portable Shepherd's Hooks are perfect for lining an outdoor aisle with Carla's hanging baskets.
- Textured Table Details: Use Burlap and Lace Table Runners under your greenhouse planters to anchor the look.
- Personalized Favors: If you source small succulents or herbs from a greenhouse, finish them with Custom Wedding Favor Tags for a "Let Love Grow" keepsake.

DJ, BAND, & ENTERTAINMENT

DJ and Band

Your entertainment is the heartbeat of the reception. In this region, you can choose between professional DJs who act as full-event coordinators or live bands that bring an unmatched energy to the dance floor.

Out-of-the-Box Entertainment Ideas

- **Lawn Game Rentals:** For a rustic Malone or ADK barn wedding, consider setting up a Large 4-in-a-Row Game or Custom Cornhole Sets for about \$150–\$300.
- **Audio Guestbooks:** Instead of a written book, rent a Vintage Audio Guestbook Telephone where guests can leave recorded messages for you to listen to later (~\$250).

Other Entertainment

Beyond the music, these interactive elements provide a unique visual experience and lasting memories for your guests.

1. Lake Placid DJ | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://lakeplaciddj.com>
- Contact: (585) 281-2785 | lakeplaciddj@gmail.com
- Price Range: \$1,500 – \$2,500+. Operated by Lee Kyler, this service is highly personalized. He is known for a "non-cheesy" style and specializes in the specific logistics of high-end Adirondack venues.

2. Party Effects DJ Service | Chazy, NY

- Website: <https://www.partyeffectsdj.com>
- Contact: (518) 578-8386
- Price Range: \$1,400 – \$2,800+. Serving Plattsburgh, Malone, and Lake Placid, Ray and Valerie offer a "dual-pro" experience. While Ray DJs, Valerie coordinates on-site, ensuring your timeline stays perfect while the dance floor stays full.

3. Big Show Productions | West Chazy, NY

- Website: <https://www.bigshowproductions.net>
- Contact: (518) 572-8595 | castine62@gmail.com
- Price Range: \$1,500 – \$3,000+. Operated by Michael "Big Show" Castine, this team is a powerhouse in the North Country. They offer full-service DJ and MC packages, high-end sound, and lighting. They are highly active in the Malone and Plattsburgh area and are known for their "Mirror Me" photobooth add-ons.

4. Neil Wright Band | Peru, NY

- Website: <https://www.neilwrightband.com>
- Contact: (518) 643-2000
- Price Range: \$2,000 – \$5,000+. One of the most sought-after live bands in the Plattsburgh/Lake Placid region. They are a full-production ensemble offering a sophisticated mix of male and female vocals, live horns, and a massive variety of genres.

1. Joe Ferris Art | Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://joeferrisart.com>
- Contact: joeferrisart@gmail.com
- Price Range: \$150 – \$200 per hour. Joe is a local staple who has opened "The Caricature Shop" on Margaret St. He specializes in live ink and watercolor caricatures that capture the spirit of your guests in minutes. It is a fantastic "out-of-the-box" way to provide both entertainment and a personalized favor for guests to take home.

2. Live Event Painting by Vesna Serving | Northern NY/VT

- Website: <https://vesnalongton.com>
- Price Range: \$1,600 – \$2,600+. Vesna travels across the region to paint your ceremony or first dance live on canvas. It provides artistic entertainment for guests as they watch the masterpiece evolve throughout the evening, leaving you with a one-of-a-kind heirloom.

BRIDAL & FORMAL WEAR

Bridal and Formal Wear

Finding the right gown or suit is a personal experience. Our region offers a great mix of historic family-owned boutiques and high-end bridal experiences.

Out-of-the-Box Attire Ideas

- The "Informal" Switch: Consider an "informal" wedding dress, often priced like a bridesmaid dress (\$200-\$600), for your reception to save money and stay comfortable during dancing. You can find these at most of the shops listed above.
- Personalized Touches: Add a Custom Wedding Gown Hanger for your pre-ceremony photos or a Mr. & Mrs. Baseball Cap Set for your getaway car.

Accessories

To fill out the page, don't forget the finishing touches that pull the whole look together, from custom jewelry to heirloom veils.

1. Laura's Bridal | Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://www.lauras-bridal.com>
- Contact: (518) 563-1461 | laurasbridal@gmail.com
- Price Range: \$1,000 – \$4,000. This is a full-service salon carrying designers like Maggie Sottero and Casablanca. They are a "one-stop boutique" that also handles tuxedo rentals, bridesmaid dresses, and mother-of-the-bride attire.

2. Needleman's Bridal & Formal Wear | Burlington, VT

- Website: <https://www.needlemansbridal.com>
- Contact: (802) 862-3042
- Price Range: \$1,000 – \$2,500. Established in 1925, they are a regional staple known for high-quality fabrics and "budget-friendly" designer options. Bonus: There is no sales tax on wedding gowns in Vermont, which can save you hundreds on a high-end dress.

3. Veilmonté Bridal Showroom | South Burlington, VT

- Website: <https://www.veilmonte.com>
- Contact: (802) 497-1510
- Price Range: \$1,500 – \$3,500+. If you are looking for something unique, this studio collaborates exclusively with independent European designers. They specialize in high-quality tailoring and luxurious fabrics for a more non-traditional or couture bridal look.

4. Smart Tux | Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.jimsformalwear.com>
- Contact: (518) 481-5566
- Price Range: Rental packages typically range from \$150 – \$250. Located conveniently in Malone, they specialize in tuxedo and suit rentals for the groom and groomsmen, offering professional on-site fittings and a wide range of colors.

1. DelilahK Bridal | Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://www.delilahk.com>
- Contact: (518) 572-5110 | delilah@delilahk.com
- Price Range: \$50 – \$300+. Delilah specializes in building an individual bridal style through fashion jewelry, hairpieces, and veils. She is highly rated for her personalized attention and for helping brides find the perfect "finishing touch" that complements their gown.

2. After Midnight Jewelers | South Burlington, VT

- Website: <https://aftermidnightjewelers.com>
- Contact: (802) 862-3114
- Price Range: \$200 – \$2,000+. Known as "Where Vermont Gets Engaged," they specialize in custom jewelry design and lab-grown diamonds. They are the perfect local choice for custom-designing wedding bands or finding high-end bridal jewelry that can be serviced on-site for generations.

HAIR & MAKEUP

Hair Styling

These stylists specialize in wedding-day hair, from boho braids to structured, timeless updos that withstand the Adirondack elements.

1. Rustic Roots Salon | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.rusticrootslp.com>
- Contact: (518) 302-5551 | rusticrootssalonllc@gmail.com
- Price Range: Formal styling starts at \$120+; on-site bridal services start at \$150+. Located right on Saranac Ave, they are a favorite for Lake Placid weddings, specializing in natural, textured, and boho-inspired mountain looks.

2. Alexandria's Beauty Salon Malone, NY

- Website: <https://www.alexandriasbeautysalon.com>
- Contact: (518) 608-6830 | alexandriasbeauty@gmail.com
- Price Range: 2026 Bridal Hair starts at \$250+; Bridesmaids/Mothers start at \$150+. This salon is a cornerstone for Malone-area weddings. They have a dedicated bridal coordinator and can accommodate large groups either in-salon or by traveling to your venue.

3. URBN Salon & Barber Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/URBNSalonLP/>
- Contact: (518) 837-5110
- Price Range: Inquire for 2026 bridal packages. Stylist Savannah is highly recommended for "lived-in" color and specialized bridal styling. They focus on modern, confidence-boosting looks for brides staying in the High Peaks region.

Makeup Artistry

These artists specialize in everything from natural "barely-there" beauty to high-definition airbrushing for a flawless finish.

1. Tia Bush Beauty | Serving Malone & Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://tiabush.com>
- Contact: Inquiry form via website
- Price Range: \$150 – \$300+ per person. Tia is a traveling beauty specialist who serves the entire Northern ADK region. She is famous for her "13-hour wear" quality—her makeup is designed to last from the first look through the final dance.

2. The Painted Pair | Saranac Lake, NY

- Website: <https://thepaintedpair.com>
- Contact: Inquiry form via website
- Price Range: 2025/2026 rates are \$125 per person for makeup (plus \$10 for lashes). Heather and Erin are a mobile-only team, meaning they come directly to your hotel or venue. They are a great, budget-friendly option for high-quality on-location service.

3. Steven Bailey Salon Spa Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://www.stevenbaileysalon.com>
- Contact: (518) 566-6464
- Price Range: Inquire for bridal makeup and spa packages. As one of Plattsburgh's premier full-service salons, they offer professional makeup applications along with pre-wedding skin prep services like facials and brow shaping.

OFFICIANT, TRANSPORTATION, & RENTALS

Officiant & Elopement

Whether you want a mountaintop ceremony or a cozy courthouse "I do," these options offer flexibility for any style.

Out-of-the-Box: The "Cutest Courthouse" Elopement If you want to skip the big production, the Essex County Courthouse in Elizabethtown, NY is a stunning, historic brick building with white columns that looks like a movie set. You can get your license at the Town Clerk's office across the street and elope on the steps or in the local park for a fraction of a venue cost.

Transportation

Getting your guests through the winding mountain roads requires a local expert who knows the terrain.

Out-of-the-Box: The Antique Car Hack Instead of a standard limo, check out local Antique Automobile Club chapters. Many local collectors with impeccably maintained 1950s Chevys or vintage trucks are often willing to "rent" their car and time for a couple of hours for photos and a grand entrance.

Rentals

In the North Country, rentals are essential for transforming barns, parks, or private estates into full-service wedding venues. These vendors handle the heavy lifting of tents, flooring, and climate control.

1. Adirondack Ever After | Lake Placid, NY

- Website: <https://www.adirondackeverafter.com>
- Contact: (518) 524-6419
- Price Range: \$250 – \$799+. They specialize in everything from simple "Sign & Celebrate" legalities to Adventure Elopements where they act as both your officiant and trail guide.

2. Meaningful Ceremonies | Serving Northern NY

- Website: <https://www.meaningfulceremonies.net>
- Price Range: \$300 – \$600. Highly rated for their ability to weave personal stories into the ceremony. They are a great choice for couples who want a non-denominational but deeply personal service.

1. Ground Force 1 | Plattsburgh, NY

- Website: <https://www.groundforce1.com>
- Contact: (518) 563-4444
- Price Range: \$500 – \$1,500+. They are the region's leader for limousines, party buses, and shuttle vans, ensuring your guests get from the hotel to the barn safely.

2. Polar Express / Northern Lights Taxi Lake Placid & Malone,

- Contact: (518) 483-7020
- Price Range: Varies by mileage. Ideal for small-group shuttles or "getaway" cars in the High Peaks and Malone regions.

1. Taylor Rental / Party Plus | Plattsburgh & Saranac Lake, NY

- Website: <https://www.taylorrentalny.com>
- Contact: (518) 563-3400 (Plattsburgh) | (518) 891-2222 (Saranac Lake)
- Price Range: \$2,000 – \$10,000+ depending on tent size and guest count. They are the region's largest provider, offering everything from massive High-Peak Frame Tents to specialty items like dance floors, luxury portable restrooms, and commercial heaters for chilly Adirondack nights.

2. Foster's Tent Rentals West Chazy, NY

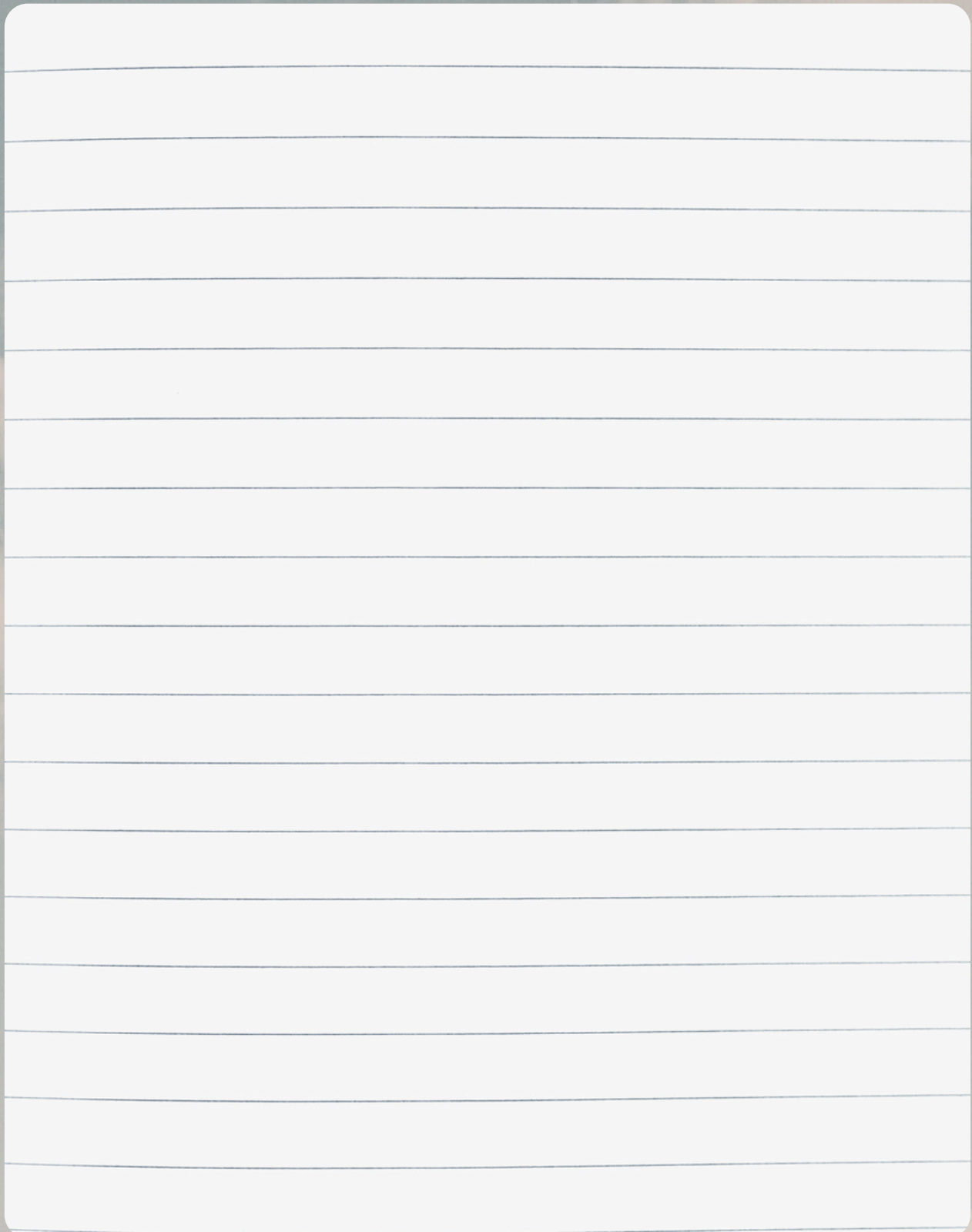
- Website: <https://www.fosterstentrentals.com>
- Contact: (518) 493-5555
- Price Range: \$1,500 – \$6,000+. A family-owned business known for pristine white tents and a highly professional setup crew. They are a go-to for weddings in Malone and the Champlain Valley, offering chairs, tables, and lighting packages that are both reliable and budget-conscious.

VENDOR CONTACT LOG

Use this master list to track your outreach. Keeping this in one place prevents "email amnesia" and ensures you never miss a follow-up or a payment deadline.

Category	Vendor Name	Inquired	Response	Cost	Booked with Deposit & Contract	Next Step
Venue						
Planner						
Photo / Video						
Catering / Bar						
Cake/Desserts						
Florals / Decor						
Rentals						
DJ / Band						
Hair / Makeup						
Officiant						
Transportation						
Other / Misc						

EVERYTHING ELSE ON
YOUR MIND—
SKETCHES, FLOOR
PLAN IDEAS, OR
'MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT' REALIZATIONS."



Notes & Sketches

Notes & Sketches

YOU MADE IT

THAT WAS A LOT OF WORK

The Final Planning "Sprint"

Once the major vendors are checked off, use these last few "Other" items to polish the day.

- Finalize the Guest List: Ensure all addresses are collected for invitations.
- Order the "Small Stuff": Favors, guest books, and those personalized napkins.
- Marriage License: Mark your calendar for 60 days out (NY licenses are valid for 60 days).
- Day-of Timeline: Share a draft with your photographer and caterer at least 4 weeks prior.

Reward Yourself

After a heavy week of spreadsheets and vendor calls, you deserve more than just a checked-off list. Choose one of these small rewards to celebrate your progress:

- 1.The "Unplugged" Movie Night: Put the phones in another room and grab a Movie Night Popcorn Set. No wedding talk, no wedding scrolling. A night of being "just a couple" again.
- 2.The "Wedding-Free" Sunset Drive: Pack a couple of blankets and head to your favorite overlook or scenic pull-off. The only rule? Zero wedding talk allowed. Spend the hour watching the sun go down and remembering why you're doing all of this in the first place.
- 3.A Trip Down Memory Lane: Go back to the place where you first met or where you had your first date. Take it all in and reminisce about how far you've come as a couple since that very first day.

The "Just for Fun" Finish

Wedding planning shouldn't feel like a 9-to-5. Here are a few final games for you and your partner to keep things light:

- 1.Wedding Show Bingo: Make printed bingo cards to bring to the next local wedding expo. Add things like "Vendor with a punny name" or "husband and wife vendor team". Loser pays for dinner on the way home.
- 2.The Bad Song Playlist: Next time you two have a long drive ahead of you, make a "Do Not Play" list on the road. It is much more satisfying to ban "Chicken Dance" than it is to pick a first dance song.

A Final Word

You have the tools, the templates, and the local North Country insider info to make this happen. Take a deep breath. **You've got this!**

Follow along for more wedding tips, local ADK vendor spotlights, and behind-the-scenes magic:

Website: www.fairytaledreamsphotography.com

Email: fairytaledreamsbooking@gmail.com

Instagram: [@fairytaledreamsphotography](https://www.instagram.com/fairytaledreamsphotography)

Facebook: Fairytaledreamsphotography

Tag me in your planning wins!

Happy Planning!

Cass B



**FAIRYTALE
DREAMS**
PHOTOGRAPHY