

# NORTHERN MINNESOTA WEDDING WEEKEND

## FRIDAY – REHEARSAL & WELCOME EVENTS

- **4:00 PM** – Venue Rehearsal  
Full run-through of ceremony with wedding party, officiant, readers, and musicians.
- Practice processional/recessional multiple times.
- Finalize ceremony cues (music timing, vows, readings).
- **5:30 PM** – Rehearsal Dinner  
Traditionally hosted by the groom's family though either family may host.  
{Who's invited? Wedding party and their spouses/partners, parents of the couple, grandparents, officiant, readers, and out-of-town close family. Some couples also invite extended out-of-town guests.}
- Reserved space at restaurant/private dining room.
- To-do: speeches, toasts, slideshow, and/or gift-giving to parents & wedding party.
- **8:00 PM** – Welcome Party (Optional)  
Open to all out-of-town guests and family not included in rehearsal dinner. Could be casual drinks at a bar, backyard bonfire, or dessert & cocktails at the hotel.
- **10:00 PM** – Turn-in for the Night  
Couple should aim for rest.



## SATURDAY – WEDDING DAY

### Morning: Getting Ready

- **8:00 AM** – Hair & Makeup Begins  
Bridesmaids and mothers first; bride's makeup and hair last.
- Breakfast/brunch provided (fruit, pastries, coffee).
- Photographer captures "getting ready" details (dress, shoes, rings, invitations).
- **9:00 AM** – Groom & Groomsmen Prep  
Groom gets ready later; photographer captures details (tie, cufflinks, boutonnières, vows).
- Some groups plan golf, fishing, or casual brunch before dressing.
- **10:30 AM** – Florals Delivered  
Bouquets, boutonnières, corsages arrive at bridal suite and groom's room.
- **11:00 AM** – Bride Into Dress  
Photographer captures dress buttoning/zip shots and family first look (parents, siblings).

## SATURDAY – WEDDING DAY

### Early Afternoon: Portraits & First Look

- 12:00 PM** – First Look (Optional)  
Couple sees each other before ceremony for portraits. {Saves time later and allows a private emotional moment.}
- 12:30 PM** – Couple & Wedding Party Portraits
- Photos with bridesmaids, groomsmen, and couple together.
- Videographer captures candid laughter and posed shots.

### Ceremony Prep

- 3:00 PM** – Guests Begin to Arrive
- Ushers hand out programs while prelude music playing.
- Photographer takes crowd, décor, and detail shots.
- 4:00 PM** – Ceremony Begins
- Processional (wedding party, bride entrance).
- Readings, vows, unity ceremony, ring exchange.
- Recessional with celebratory exit.
- 4:30 PM** – Post-Ceremony Family Portraits {parents, step-parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family as needed}
- Cocktail hour simultaneously for guests.

### Cocktail Hour

- 4:45 PM** – Cocktail Hour Starts  
Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and live music.
- Photographer captures candid, detail shots of reception décor.
- 5:45 PM** – Grand Entrance & First Dance  
Couple enters reception, goes straight into first dance (optional).
- Parents' dances can follow.

### Reception

- 6:00 PM** – Dinner Service Begins  
Courses served (buffet, plated, or stations).
- Best man/maid of honor speeches between courses.
- 7:30 PM** – Dancing Opens  
DJ/band kicks off party with upbeat music.
- Cake cutting and dessert service midway through.
- 9:30 PM** – Late-Night Snack (Optional)  
Sliders, pizza, pretzels, food truck. {Keeps energy up for dancing.}
- 10:30 PM** – Special Send-Off (Optional)  
Sparklers, glow sticks, bubbles, or private last dance.
- 11:00 PM** – Reception Ends  
Shuttle service arranged for guests.

SUNDAY – FAREWELL BRUNCH &  
DEPARTURE

- 9:00 AM** – Farewell Breakfast/Brunch  
Hosted at hotel ballroom, restaurant, or family home. {Casual atmosphere, often buffet-style.}
- Say goodbyes to out-of-town guests.
- 11:30 AM** – Depart for Airport/Honeymoon.  
Immediate family/friends could see you off.
- Photographer may capture farewell if contracted.