

Inspired Maid/Matron of Honors

What a wonderful opportunity!
You can help the Bride-To-Be have a magical, wondrous experience!

What does she REALLY Need?!...

SUPPORT

“Being there” is a priority! *Make time to have time for her!*
No two Engagement/Ceremony Planning/Wedding Experiences are the same...

Balance your views of what she “needs” with her requests. Some of your greatest ideas simply “don’t work” for her. Sometimes a gentle suggestion or reminder from you can make all the difference...

Almost guaranteed: She is stressed! Seemingly hundreds of decisions around colors, flowers, venues, announcements, parties, family issues, choices, choices, choices! And of course she wants “everything to be perfect”! If you’re a “calm in the eye of the storm”, she’s supported endlessly by you!...

LEADERSHIP

She may need you to take her directions and make things happen... Or you might take the reins and orchestrate... Honestly, you can save her a lot of money, time, stress and heartache!
Tune into what you know about your heroine...

Pre-Ceremony

Forever Inspired suggests behind-the-scenes: Think like a business manager & develop your list of all you think she may need to deal with and handle! Note: She may or may not prefer you do this, or any other suggested supportive activity. Do your thinking on your own, and then suggest ways you can help and see what “sticks”!

NOTE: *Don’t take anything personally during this experience!* Engagement, planning and Weddings trigger lots of emotions! Generally, she doesn’t really mean to be as stressed as she probably is during this process ~ It simply can be overwhelming!

There’s a million sites online with lists of all the bride gets to deal with. If you have your own copy of a list (with her input), she’s blessed to have someone simply keeping up with everything – Regardless of how she wants you to help her with the details!

Some Brides even have their Maid-Of-Honor *schedule the Bride & Groom’s Meeting with ForeverInspired’s Mitch Darnell!*

Pre-Event and Ceremony Locations

Some Grooms are there 100% for every visit. Many Brides-to-Be do some sites shopping with their Maid of Honor! You probably know her better than she knows herself at times... What an asset!!

Colors, Invitations, Favors, Decorations, Flowers... The Dress!!

So many places she may or may not need support, leadership or assistance... So many opportunities, possibly, for you to contribute to her wonderful experience!

She may need help with items like the Reception Seating Chart, planning the Rehearsal Dinner, following up with RSVP's (and getting people TO RSVP!)...

Check out the Bridal Fairs, and let her know about them! She may want you to go with!

Set a time to get her Engagement Ring cleaned!

Try to get her to allow you to *handle follow-up calls* – Checking when things arrive, scheduling appointments and making reservations...

And MAKE HER DELEGATE!!... And, YOU DO THE SAME!!
Don't take on the whole world here! Family, Bridesmaids, the Groom and Best Man, friends... They all are capable of handling things!! Meanwhile, know that between flakes and the best-intentioned people, *mistakes will happen!* If you CALMLY stay on top of things, all will run smooth....

AND YOUR BRIDE DOESN'T NEED TO SWEAT THE DETAILS!!

Shower and Bachelorette Party!

Guess who takes the lead on these events (if she wants them)?! Yep: You!! Let her know you want her to be the recipient... To enjoy!... To celebrate.. party!! You contact her invitees, handle reminding them, getting directions to everyone, etc., etc.!

This is a GREAT time to get to know any of the Bridal Party and/or Family you've not met! Be the loving, warm, positive center in what sometimes is an emotional and/or stressful time!

Getting to know these folks will also help you in your roles leading up to and during the big day!... And in preparing *your Reception Toast*!!

NOTE: And make sure you *get all Attendees to foot the bill!* So rude to have the Bride-to-Be pay for her own Wedding Shower!

She may have Cake and/or Catering Tastings for you to schedule, or at least know about to be her reminder on...

Gift Registries!

Some Brides love the support you can provide by going with your friend to register for her wedding gifts, and by letting her guests know where the bride and groom are registered. Many brides do this perhaps with the Groom. Check it out...

Handling the Bridesmaids

Get them to their fittings, the Shower, Bachelorette Party, Rehearsal and the Wedding!! Believe it or not, we hear LOTS of stories of "flakes" who don't show or don't do their part for the Brides! ...True!

Handling the Families

Introduce yourself as soon as your she allows you. Connect with the people she's counting on – Family and dear friends to attend and possibly play roles in her experience.

People are so busy and distracted that even the most well-meaning, loving folks can overlook something (cufflinks, a keepsake, camera....). Remember, “honey attracts friends” ~ ***Treat all of her Guests as VIP’s and you’ll be doing her a huge favor!***

Arriving at Wedding Day!

Have vendors, family and friends keep you up on any changes that affect her, the other guests, and/or her Ceremony and Day in any way!

Make sure you know who is doing what! Who is bringing the two Wedding Rings?!... Who is going to the airport to pick up Aunt Millie from Memphis?! Who is watching the house while the Bride and Groom are off on their Honeymoon?!...

HUGE: Remind her every time she gets nervous about “how things will turn out”: **It Will Be AWESOME!!** Somehow, Wedding’s pretty much always work! No one cares if something takes longer than the Bride had planned, or if the Ring Bearer takes the long way to the altar! It’s all fun, romance and celebration!!

Keep a Checklist, and DELEGATE!!

Wedding Day

Be the “Calm One”!...

Connect with the Bride early... See how she’s doing!

It’s usually good to connect with her family early as well! Just to get a sense of how they are, as you look after her best interests!

Get her to the Ceremony site early, and ensure everything on your Maid-Of-Honor Checklist is “Good To Go”!

If you have a ***ForeverInspired Wedding***, then you and Mitch will connect that day, and he actively connects with family, the Wedding Party and vendors to support everyone being “set” and feeling great!

Assist your Bride with in getting into her dress, and with her hair and makeup, if appropriate.

Assign someone to be the Messenger between your Bride and the Groom, family, Vendors, etc.! *Between her and her Bridesmaids, you are the Messenger!*

Visit the Ceremony and Reception sites ensure there are no problems or issues. If ***Mitch is your Officiant, he’s on top of this with you, and you two can act as a team...***

You are your Bride’s protector ~ Have her back to ensure she gets privacy, quiet time, space and sanity!...

Throughout, watch her Veil and Train (if she has one)... Two things which can really mess with an otherwise awesome experience!... Or really add to the magic!

Look consistently for opportunities to Straighten/Fluff her dress when she's about to present to start the Ceremony, when she turns any corners, when she's up front, as she and the Groom are introduced for the first time as "Husband and Wife", and as they present to enter the Reception...

Know that she chose you as her Maid-Of-Honor because you are special! Your presence throughout means the world to your Bride!

During the ceremony, you hold the Bride's Bouquet, and her peace. Smile a LOT... And HAVE FUN!!!

The Reception!

Have your toast planned ahead of time!

If you take the time to think a bit, you can remember those things you really want to tell about your friendship, history, and your love of your Bride and her new beau!

Look after items for her during the Reception, like securing the Bridal/Groom Money Bag if they had a Money Dance... Putting her Veil and Train away, getting the shoes she wants to dance in, continuing to communicate with everyone to help maintain a fun, loving, celebratory environment...

Last, but not least, provide moral support and be a great listener throughout the process since it is a very wonderful and "positively" stressful time for your friend. You can really make the difference!

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The Maid of Honor's Checklist...

- Dress
- Bobby Pins
- Make-up
- Make Up for Touch-Ups
- Clear Nail Polish & Nail Glue
- Hairspray
- Tissue
- Perfume
- Jewelry for the Bride and yourself
- Wedding Dress shoes and a casual pair for after
- Undergarments for the Wedding Dress
- Needle, scissors, and thread (white and color of bridesmaid dresses)
- Contact solution/rewetting drops or glasses

- Pantyhose/nylons (at least 2 pair)
- Change of clothing/shoes for after
- Phone Numbers of all Important Family Members in the Wedding & Wedding Party
- Vendors' phone numbers
- Watch
- Any prescription medications the Bride or Groom needs
- Your Toast/Speech for the Reception
- Anything you want to give your Bride
- 2 garters (1 to keep & 1 to toss)
- Groom's Ring
- Tylenol and Antacid or Tums
- Deodorant / Antiperspirant
- Toothbrush
- Breath mints
- Cash for tips
- Plane tickets & luggage if the Newlyweds will be going straight from the Wedding Site to their Honeymoon
- Extra money (in case of emergency)
- Backup transportation in case the first car has "issues"