



Tips From the Experts: Stacy Geisler, Bride

Hello brides and grooms-to-be! Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for thinking of New Hampshire for your wedding destination. My name is Stacy Geisler, and not only am I the website manager for www.visitnh.gov/weddings, but I'm also a fairly recent bride myself. My husband and I were married on June 11, 2011 in Andover, New Hampshire, and while I'm not sure that qualifies me as an "expert", I do certainly have plenty of experience when it comes to planning a wedding in New Hampshire.

With the busy wedding season right around the corner, it seemed timely to focus on dealing with the last minute stress of wedding planning. No matter how organized and prepared you are, these last minute stressors can creep up on you out of nowhere. Here are a couple of issues that caused me headaches during the last couple of days before my wedding, along with my advice on how to work through it.

Stressor #1: Getting overwhelmed with last minute details and wanting to make sure everything was "perfect."



We held our wedding at a completely do-it-yourself venue. We were responsible for all of the setup and decoration and I had such a clear picture in my mind of what it should look like. Meanwhile, we had tons of eager family and friends ready and waiting to help. While I was absolutely grateful to have all the extra helping hands, it suddenly felt like everyone had their own opinions on what should go where, how to decorate the venue and where to put things. All of the details I'd spent the past year agonizing over were being overlooked for what everyone else thought would look best.

My advice to other brides-to-be in this situation:



Gratefully accept the extra help, but stick to your guns about decisions that have already been made. At the same time, learn when it's ok to let go. One of the very best decisions I made was to step away from all of the final preparations on the morning of our wedding day. I let willing family and friends take over and spent the day hanging out with my bridesmaids. We got our hair and makeup done, then spent hours just laughing, relaxing, and being silly. This special time is one of my favorite memories of our wedding day. As for the setup and decorating? Everything looked absolutely beautiful and better than I'd ever imagined. And I am beyond grateful for the amazing family and friends who took over that morning and allowed me to have this time to relax.

Stressor # 2: The weather.

Every bride-to-be dreads having a rainy wedding day and I was no different. We planned to have an outdoor ceremony on a beautiful hilltop overlooking a lake and the mountains. All week leading up to the wedding the forecast showed sunny skies for my wedding day. Then on Friday, the forecast switched over to rain...95% chance of rain. I was so upset the entire day before our wedding when I thought about how I wouldn't be able to have the beautiful outdoor ceremony I'd been dreaming about for months.

My advice to other brides-to-be in this situation:



- **Accept that there is absolutely nothing you can do to control the weather.** You just have to take it as it comes.
- **Have a backup plan.** We had an indoor space where the reception was going to be held and always knew we could use it for the ceremony as well.
- **Look on the bright side.** Our rehearsal the day before the wedding took place at the outdoor ceremony spot. The entire time, we were being eaten alive by mosquitoes. If anything, at least our wedding ceremony was bug-free indoors!



- **Embrace the rainy day.** When I woke up on our wedding day to the sound of pouring rain on the roof, I let myself be upset for about 5 minutes. Then I moved on. And you know what? I have such fond memories of that rainy day. From rushing around under umbrellas, to bunkering down inside our cozy lakeside cottage rental with my bridesmaids, to wearing my flip flops up to the venue to dodge mud puddles in. The whole day took on such a warm and intimate vibe that I love reminiscing about. Our wedding photos still came out beautiful. In fact, in many of them you can't even tell that it's raining! I honestly am not sure if I'd trade that rainy day for a sunny one if I had the chance.

Finally, **just remember to look at the bigger picture.** Getting stressed out over the small stuff can only detract from what the day is really about- marrying the person you love. Enjoy every single minute of this special time, because you'll never be able to recreate it! No matter what hiccups or issues arise, everything will come together and you will have a beautiful and memorable wedding.



Photography Courtesy of Stacy Geisler/Wesley Maggs Photography


New Hampshire
visitnh.gov

