

Some readers see this part of your email after the subject line in the inbox. Write something brief and catchy, compelling them to open the email.



How's your wedding planning coming? For next steps, look over the recent newsletters to see if there are things left unattended. Here's a long list:

- * Save the date
- * DJs / band
- * Officiant / Justice of the Peace / Minister
- * Rooming list for MML
- * Overflow lodging at neighboring inns
- * Photographer
- * Florist or a flower/decoration plan
- * Wedding insurance
- * Shuttle service
- * Cake / Dessert
- * Wedding Web page
- * Photo booth
- * Gift bags
- * Favors

[Here are some vendors](#) we have enjoyed working with in the past and can recommend.

Another way to do a sanity check is to look over our [sample schedule](#). This overview of a weekend wedding timeline might help you envision your event, and may help you to navigate your next steps in the process.

Making a visit to discuss to talk menu, colors, equipment rental and other details is a great idea. I've sent a list of available Spring dates in another newsletter, but we're here almost any time to help, so feel free to propose a time.

Flowers



If you are not hiring a florist, feel free to purchase your own flowers and make your own bouquets, flower arrangements, centerpieces, and other decorative touches. You can order flowers online and have them shipped here or you can come a day or two early and shop locally. We have a good variety of vessels for your arrangements - ball jars, mason jars, vases, pewter tins buckets and the like.

Advice from Lauren - a note on flower arranging. Do-it-yourself flower arranging at MML often involves petals and leaves covering many tables and the dining room floor on Thursday -- there's bridesmaids, aunts, and cousins drinking wine and waving stems

like fairy wands as they laugh and jest. It's fun and magical and your guests will love to be a part of it. Two pieces of advice: 1) Set your expectations appropriately and 2) order extra flowers. Unless you're a floral arranger in a studio or floral shop you might not be able to get your arrangements to look like the magazine photo or pinterest item. Have fun experimenting - that's where the ordering extra comes in. We can help of course, and let you know what works well.

Offsite Lodging

We have a number of [partners](#) in town that we recommend for overflow lodging in addition to the [Greenbrier](#). For those that want a small bed and breakfast try the Snowed Inn; how about a small B&B with no kids - the Birch Ridge; a larger hotel with indoor pool - Cascades Lodge. There are houses and condos to rent as well. If you need some help with communicating to guests why they all can't stay at the wedding venue, here's a [terrific example](#)

More Frequently Asked Questions

What about lighting under tent?

We've got you covered! Your tent comes with perimeter lighting - white lighting along the top of the walls. These strings of lights are on a rheostat and so can be dimmed or brightened as appropriate. You do not need any more lighting.

Can we get those lighted hanging lanterns?

Yes. You don't need them though and they are about \$15 each and have to be ordered through the tent company. If you love love love that look, we can help arrange it for you, but we will generally nudge you away from this.

Can we add candles on the tables?

Yes.

Can guests tent at Mountain Meadows Lodge?

Yes. If you've met your lodging requirement in your contract, tenters can stay on site for \$22 per person per night and this includes breakfast. We don't have actual campsites, but we can give them an area of the lawn that is tucked away. For bathroom facilities they can use the lodge bathrooms, however for showers, we ask that they coordinate with one of the guests in the lodge to use their bathroom. If there are a lot of campers we ask you to set aside (and pay for) a guest room in the lodge that the campers can use for their bathroom. Campers should call and make a reservation just like the other lodgers.

Do we need to think about additional gratuities?

All of our guests recognize how hard the MML staff, particularly Lauren, Dave, Candice, Alex, PV, and the bartenders work to make the event special and for all the components to go smoothly. Most all of our wedding couples or moms and dads, honor MML staff with some form of extra gratuity. [Hourly staff share in the meal gratuity that is on your invoice. Candice is on salary and does not share in this gratuity. Bartenders' gratuities are on your invoice.]

If you need guidance in determining tips, below is a list of what we've seen as an average for gratuities for the staff for a wedding weekend at Mountain Meadows Lodge. Amounts depend on the nature of how they assisted you and the size of the wedding.

- Lauren - Wedding Coordinator/Supervisor: \$100-\$500

- Candice: Assistant Innkeeper \$100-\$500
- Alex - Resort Manager, Bar Manager: \$100-\$500
- PV - Sous Chef/Baker/Kitchen: \$50-\$200
- Dave - Operations Consultant: \$100-\$500
- All others, which is split depending on hours worked: \$100-\$300

If anyone has stood out that you would like to take care of separately we can help you with that

Can we decorate under the tent?

Yes; though, there are some restrictions when it comes to attaching decorations to the tent so check with us if you have ideas. Birch branches around the tent poles or photo displays can be arranged.

Can folks at other lodges come for breakfast(s)?

Yes. If you have guests staying at the other inns or rentals in the area, you are welcome to invite them to Mountain Meadows Lodge for breakfasts. Check your contract for the breakfast rates. We would like an approximate count for these "outside" breakfasts about two weeks ahead and when you submit your questionnaire and let us know if each guest pays or you want to be billed

What about lunches?

Your guests will probably be off in many directions during lunchtime so a good idea is to give them a list of local lunch spots in a welcome letter. If your guests are going to hang out enjoying the lake and the lawn games, encourage them to grab something at the deli and bring it back. If this is the case, let us know in your planning document and we'll have a bartender on duty as well.

Beer

Beer... Have you thought about which beer is right for your wedding? With the recent revolution in micro-breweries, there are so many choices that it can make your head spin. But, have no fear - we'll find your beer.



A big choice in the wedding planning process is your bar plan. It affects not just the overall cost of the wedding, but how we stock your bar for you.

Should you choose a bar plan that's open for just beer, or beer and wine, or you just want to save some dollars without sacrificing taste, kegs are a good option. We try to keep things simple around here so most all of our beers are \$6. But a bottled beer is 12 oz and a keg beer is 14-16 oz so keg beer ends up stretching your dollar a little further.

If you go the route of draft beer, our cold plate has two taps so we'll encourage you to pick two draft beers for your weekend. Generally, we think it's a good idea to pick a lighter and a darker beer so that your guests have options.

Some of our most popular Vermont beers come from the Long Trail Brewing Company. Their brewery is only 11 miles from here - you can't get much more local than that. They stock a plethora of seasonal and permanent beers; arguably one for every beer lover's taste buds.

In addition to the Long Trail varieties, some other very popular Vermont beers on tap are Switchback and Fiddlehead IPA. We want you to choose Vermont beers - it's a Vermont Wedding!

For 'house' bottled beer we keep Long Trail Ale, Long Trail IPA, Long Trail Limbo IPA, Magic Hat #9, Magic Hat Circus Boy (all those are from Vermont), Sam Adams Rebel IPA (Boston), Budweiser, Bud Light, Corona, and Guinness. Let us know if there is something else you'd like to see in bottles. We also have a 'house' hard cider - Woodchuck Amber hard cider - also from Vermont.

If you come for a visit we'd love for you to taste our most popular beers, just ask. We ask you to recognize that as a Vermont Liquor License holder, we can only provide beer offered by our distributors, who cover a range of nearly 100 different beers. But keep in mind that your favorite neighborhood craft beer may not have a regional distributor here in Killington. Which is a shame, but you'll have to choose something that our distributors offer.

Also, due to our liquor license, you can't bring anything alcoholic onsite, even home-brew. Sorry! It's strictly against Vermont laws. We are a liquor licensee for the state of Vermont and we want to keep our license! Tell your guests: no BYOB, no tailgating - it's not that kind of wedding venue! This is something we take very seriously, and we hope that you will too. If you need to make it clear to your guests say something like: you wouldn't carry a six-pack into your favorite local pub, would you?

If you have any questions, please reach out to us. This is your wedding weekend we are talking about. We're more than happy to help. The next newsletter will have an article about wines.