



wedding
guide

amanda summers
PHOTOGRAPHY

VIBRANT & CHEERFUL PHOTOGRAPHY

Hey, I'm Amanda!

I'm a wedding photographer based in Frederick, Maryland and my goal is to provide a fun, genuine wedding photography experience to happy couples! This wedding guide is meant to provide you with information and inspiration to help you plan for your wedding day!

warm
vibrant
cheerful
passionate



YOU'RE ENGAGED! NOW WHAT?

let's plan your engagement session!



Engagement session. Let me start by saying, I KNOW men tend to dread this. I get it, it's awkward with someone you don't know all up in your personal space. But that's exactly it, I don't want your wedding day to be the first time we're meeting and interacting. I include engagement sessions in all of my wedding packages so that you and your fiancé are able to see how I work, judge how much I sweat no matter what temperature it is outside, and I'm able to see what works for you all and what isn't as comfortable. You can make the session as dressy or casual as you'd like. You are able to do an outfit change—why not give yourself some variety?! There are no rules. You don't have to frolic in a field of tall grass, although if you want to, I'm so in! Think of an ideal date day or pictures you've seen that you love and want for yourself. I usually suggest having your hair and make up done for the session as well, it's a great way to get use out of your trial for your wedding day, see how it photographs and feel your best.

I book out about 3-4 months ahead of time. The session is about an hour and a half or so, plan a date for after the session, you'll have earned it. I can suggest locations but if you have one in mind, let's talk! I want to let you know that it's COMPLETELY normal to be nervous before your engagement session--alas--that's kind of the whole point of having one. After the engagement session happens, I guarantee you will feel more comfortable for your wedding day and working with me.

on your wedding day

HOW TO BE WELL PREPARED

your details

Please have all of your special details/items gathered and ready for when we arrive.

This refers to your dress and the bridesmaid dresses (on hangers, out of plastic and tags removed), shoes, jewelry, invitations (unless you mailed me one, then I will bring it myself), the wedding rings, perfume, etc. This allows photographing details to happen more quickly.

You spent a lot of time and money picking out those items so it's a fun start to the day to capture those. If it's not something you really care about, don't panic. These are just suggestions!

getting ready

Whether you're at a hotel suite, Airbnb or the venue's getting ready suite make sure this spaces is clean, tidy and free of clutter!

Windows! Open them up. Window light creates a beautiful natural lighting situation ideal for your photos.

Plan for me to arrive at least 2 hours before your ceremony, if you are planning a first look then plan for me to arrive at least 3 hours before your ceremony.



should we do a first look?

First look. If you DO choose to do a first look, you won't regret it! But, I understand not wanting to do one and would only push for one IF the amount of daylight after your ceremony would not allow for enough time for all the photos that need to take place.

So many couples assume that if they have first look that it takes away from the moment of seeing one another walking down the aisle at the ceremony—but I have had no one say that after the fact. It gives you the option to get more of your photos done before the ceremony, maybe attend some of your cocktail hour, have a more intimate first look with your fiancé where you can talk and pretend it's just the two of you, and some of your nerves out of the way.



planning your timeline

SAMPLE WEDDING TIMELINE



Here is a very general wedding timeline below (without a first look, since most of my couples opt not to do one).

2:00 PM - Photographers arrive and photograph venue, details, getting ready photos and bridesmaids/groomsmen separately outside

3:30 PM - Everyone need to be inside, away from guests and out of sight

4:00-4:30 PM pm- Ceremony

4:30-5:30 PM - Cocktail hour/ portrait time. Family photos first, bridal party photos next, and bride/groom photos last.

5:30 PM - Entrance into reception

6:00-6:30 PM - Dinner (no photos)

8:45 PM - Sparkler exit

9:00 PM - Photographer's coverage ends

Wedding day events

TIPS TO MAKE YOUR DAY RUN SMOOTHLY!

Ceremony

The reason we are all here! yay!

Consider an unplugged ceremony. What's unplugged? It's where your guests are asked to refrain from taking photos on their phones, tablets or personal cameras.

Talk with your officiant and DJ to see how they will handle microphones. The goal is for them to be discreet and not take away from the aesthetic of your ceremony photos.



Cocktail Hour

This is the time for your formal portraits! We will make sure you get a drink and a bite to eat as your guests begin enjoying the signature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. You won't be missing out, the hour goes quickly and pictures with your family and favorites are so important.

This is a great times to start your photobooth coverage and give your guests something fun to do, you can also have activities and games.

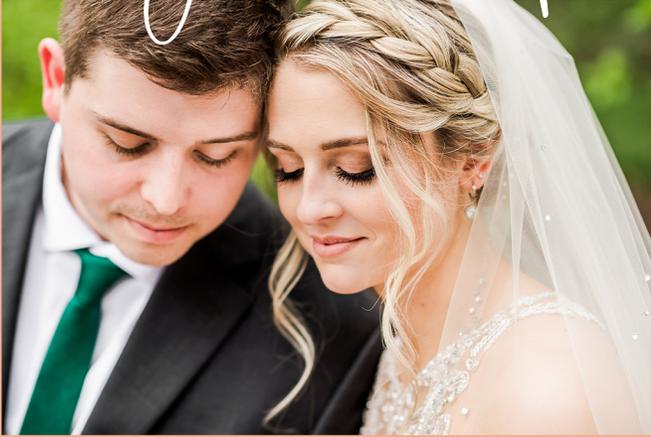
Reception

Your DJ will typically be the one to come up with the timeline for your reception. This will include toasts, cake cutting, special dances, garter/bouquet toss, special exit. If you are planning a special exit from the reception to take place, please know that the process needs to begin BEFORE your coverage end time.

If coverage ends at 9pm, the DJ should announce 15-20 minutes ahead of time for the exit to allow guests to make their way to the designated location. (Remember guests have been drinking and dancing, so it takes a few minutes to change tasks!)



your portraits!



During cocktail hour we spend about 15 mins for family portraits, 15 for entire bridal party and then the last half hour for couple's photos. Guys, breath. I promise it goes quickly. With that being said, a list of family to be photographed immediately following the ceremony is extremely important. Designate someone, NOT in the bridal party, who is NOT the couple, and who is NOT an immediate family member needed for photos, to make sure the people listed stick around for photos and don't head straight to cocktail hour.



This is not the time for large group photos, if we do an entire "Smith" side of the family photo...it's going to take a lot of time to round up 20+ people when people are already devouring the appetizers. If there are large group photos you want captured, create a list and that can be done during your reception, especially since there are two photographers! The reception is a great time for this to happen because the DJ can make announcements and mention meeting places for said photos. These groups might include friends from college, work friends, or extended family who traveled far to attend your wedding.



I also find it's nice to check with your parents for any groupings they're hoping for and to let them know the information I've suggested above.

lets' do this!

Timeline Planning + Lighting Tips



Let's talk timeline. Most wedding venues provide you with a day of wedding coordinator but I am MORE than able and willing to help you with a wedding day timeline. I need you to provide your ceremony start time, hours of coverage booked, length of ceremony (roughly), how long you have between the end of your ceremony and the start of your reception (whether or not there is an hour for cocktail hour) and whether or not you and your fiancé are doing a first look (not a blind first look, a full on first look where you see one another).

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For Spring and early Fall weddings schedule your ceremony for 2 hours before sunset to get that golden hour glow for your formal portraits.

Summer weddings means a late sunset so expect harsh sunlight for your ceremony and formal portraits. You can plan to step outside again during the reception to get some golden hour couples photos after 8pm.

"I literally cannot recommend Amanda enough! From our engagement photos to our wedding photos, she has killed it! She makes everyone so comfortable and is able to capture the absolute best photos. Not only did we get the best photos, but we had so much fun throughout the entire process! I had a massive wedding party, which was definitely no small feat for most, but Amanda handled it flawlessly. Hire Amanda for your event!"

PRICING & PACKAGES

wedding collections start at
\$3000

EVERY WEDDING PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Hourly Wedding Day Coverage
- Two Professional Photographers
- USB of edited, high resolution images
- Online gallery of edited, high resolution images
- Engagement session

*Additional hours of coverage can be added at \$350/hour

*pricing is subject to change, please visit
the website for current packages*



things to know

● Second photographer: I will hire one of my trusted industry peers to shoot your wedding day with me. I have a handful of photographers that I work with during the wedding season, all of these individuals have their own photography businesses. I hire them based on their abilities, experience and shooting style. I edit all of the images you receive- there will be a cohesive look to the images and you shouldn't be able to tell who took which photo (unless you just happen to remember who you saw taking the photo). It's honestly just a benefit to the wedding day; I can't be in two places at once and having another photographer there to grab things I may have missed otherwise is peace of mind. For example, one of us can be on the dance floor capturing your guests at their best and the other can be photographing large group photos!

● Shot lists! While my second shooter and I do not work off of a shot list (aside from family formals), if there are some "must have" photos, PLEASE let me know. We will do our best to make those happen! Because many of you have never been married before, let me explain what types of photos are typically captured at every wedding. (The venue, digns, decor, florals, details-the dress, jewelry, ties, cuff links, etc., the ceremony site, the reception site and tables, dessert tables, memorial tables, decor, wedding favors, bride with each bridesmaid and MOH, groom with each groomsman and best man, bride with all bridesmaids, groom with all groomsmen, bride by herself, groom by himself, bride/groom with siblings, bride/groom with parents, bride/groom with entire bridal party (bridesmaids and groomsmen), family formals, bride/groom portraits, toasts, cake cutting, special dances, garter/bouquet toss, special exit, bride coming down the aisle, groom's reaction, the first kiss, walking back down the aisle as a married couple, fun dancing, guests at tables, couples in the reception space, etc.

● To recap: I need timelines, vendor lists and family grouping lists BEFORE your wedding day. Even if this means the week of your wedding. It would be beneficial for you and your fiancé to fill out the following questionnaire prior to your wedding.

-Wedding date:

-Bride's name and phone number:

-Groom's name and phone number:

-Getting ready location and address for the guys:

-Getting ready location and address for the girls:

-Ceremony start time:

-Hours of coverage (start and end time):

-Ceremony location and address:

-Reception location and address:

-Are you interested in a first look with your fiancé?

-Do we have the full hour during cocktail hour for photos?

-Any additional first looks? Parents? Bridesmaids?

-Are there any special family dynamics I should be made aware of?

-What are your top 3 most important captures of the day (aside from the list above)?

-Who do you want to help you put on your wedding dress?

-Will there be a receiving line following your ceremony? (In my opinion these use a lot of picture time, and I would suggest going table to table during the reception instead):

-What colors are you utilizing most for your wedding day?

-Are you interested in being pulled during the appropriate time for golden hour or sunset photos?

(This typically take 10-15 minutes!)

-What events are you doing during the reception? First dance? Parent dance(s)? Garter toss? Bouquet toss?

-Cake cutting? Toasts?

-Will there be a special exit from your reception? If your coverage doesn't last through the end of your reception you can do sparkler (o whatever you're using) pictures with your bridal party/family before we leave or even a faux exit that the DJ will announce and then keep the dancing going.

-Any concerns or questions for me at this point?

Favorite Vendors

PLANNERS

Hannah Belle Events
Rose Gold Events
Sara Reynolds Events
Event Studio
Caroline Bell Creative
Celebrating Love by Marcie

FLORISTS

Lucky Penny Floral
Wildflower Weddings
Blossom and Basket Boutique
Abloom
Crimson & Clover
Stacey Bowen Floral Design
Ory
Freesia & Vine

BEAUTY

JKW Beauty
Glam Bridal Beauty
Poetically Brushed
A & B Studio (Amanda Kearney)
The Beauty Company

MUSIC

Shewsical
Dapper DJs
Marylands DJ
District Remix

VIDEO

BE Videography
Wise Films
Carla Elizabeth Studio
TLIC Media
Thirty1 Films

DRESS SHOP

TLC Bridal
Posh Bridal
Betsy Robinson's

CATERING

PIGS
Celebrations Catering
Simply Fresh Events

DESSERTS

Sage Cakery
Stone House Cakery
Monica's Sugar Studio

RENTALS

White Glove Rentals
Something Vintage
Rentals to Remember

INVITATIONS

Bare Ink Co.
Copperstone Inc.

OFFICIANTS

Marry Me Rev JB
MDDC Weddings (Joyce)
Ed Choy
Norman Ross

PHOTO BOOTH

Pixilated

VENUES

Glen Ellen Farm
Mt. Washington Mill Dye House
Main Street Ballroom
Haven Street Ballroom
Antrim 1844
Dulanys Overlook
Walkers Overlook
McClintock Distilling
Shadow Creek
Bluebird Manor
Springfield Manor
Stone Manor
The Tannery Barn





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