

BRIDAL Shows

The One, Two, Three to Get You Through

Larry James | CelebrateIntimateWeddings.com



you and will talk to you about their products and services in as much detail as you want. If you find a vendor that you like, set up an appointment and meet with them later.

Walk up one aisle on one side and check out the vendors, then walk down the other side of the same aisle to make sure you do not miss anyone. You may miss the very wedding service you were looking for if you try to wander from side-to-side down the same aisle.

Keep your eyes open for ideas to incorporate into your own wedding, such as a type of flower arrangement, color combinations (in photographers' sample albums, for example), and favors.

Bring a camera. Snap a photo of the minister you spoke to, a cake that looked especially delicious or take a picture of an exhibit that you want to remember. Use these photos to jog your memory about something that grabbed your attention.

Bridal shows can be most helpful in planning your wedding. They are exciting, festive and full of terrific ideas. You will be able to meet and ask questions of many wedding professionals all gathered under one roof. You will want to gather information, compare prices and services, register for prizes, see the latest fashions, get great new ideas and just have fun.

Where else but at a bridal show can you preview ceremony and reception locations, peruse photographers' portfolios, see and hear entertainers and see if your personalities click with a minister and his style of ceremony?

Here are some tips that will help you get the most from your bridal show experience.

Pre-register before the show. Some shows offer a discount toward the purchase of your ticket. It saves you time at check-in, and a few bucks.

Making a checklist of required services, accessories, the most important elements needed to complete your wedding plans and design questions that will streamline your efforts and help speed things along. Plan to spend a minimum of 4 or 5 hours in order to see all the exhibits. Plan a "rest break" about every hour. Bring some cash for parking.

If the bridal show has a wedding fashion show, check the times of the shows when you arrive, so you don't miss out. Seating is often first come, first served.

Bring a list of questions to ask. Ask the hard questions. The vendors want to help



Some vendors offer drawings for prizes. To prevent writer's cramp bring address labels to save time in filling out registration blanks. Include your name, the groom's name, complete address, your wedding date and location, phone numbers and e-mail address. If you don't bring labels, print very clearly when registering for anything.

Bring your fiancé with you; do your best to stay together or at least have cell phones handy so you can arrange to meet at a booth where the vendor is of special interest.

If you click with a vendor, put their information in a special bag, not with all the other stuff you collect. Leave your purse at home in favor of a lightweight carrying bag. Make notes on business cards, the brochure or flyer for easy reference later. Bring a red pen and indicate your level of interest, e.g., "Call this one!"

Bring a small notebook and pen. You never know what tips or ideas you'll discover.

Bring your PDA or personal planner so you will have your bridal shower, rehearsal, wedding and other important dates handy. It can also be helpful if you choose to make an appointment with one of the vendors. Ask about availability if you are interested.

Look for more tips in the January February 2007 issue.

Larry James is a non-denominational minister, professional speaker, relationship coach and author of three relationship books. He performs "romantic" wedding ceremonies with romantic elegance and impeccable detail. You can reach Larry at 480-998-9111 or check his website at www.CelebrateIntimateWeddings.com. Images of the Bridal Fashion Debut, Phoenix, Arizona by Will Hegarty.