

How to get the most out of attending a bridal show or expo:

Be prepared to stay and a couple of hours or more. It takes a while to see what everyone has to offer.

It's best to **go with a friend** (your maid of honor or bridesmaid), your mom, or even your future spouse! Too many in a group however can actually make it more difficult to get the most for your time.

Large crowds often cause delays in getting in or moving from display to display. Bring along lots of **patience** and a happy attitude.

Print **small mailing labels** with your name, address, phone #, email address and wedding date. Most vendors have drawings for door prizes. Bring along the preprinted labels – they will save you time .

Bring along a **tote bag** to gather brochures and other information and give-aways. Sometimes each bride is given a small bag upon entering but don't count on it. Pick up information from each vendor even if you don't think you'll need it. Add the info to your file – your plans may change. Example samples of products and taste the work of bakers and caterers.

Talk with the professionals. Introduce yourself. Ask specific questions about their work and availability. If you especially like a vendor, be careful not to make a decision too hastily. Ask to schedule an appointment to meet at a later time.

Bring a **notepad and pen** to write down your favorite ideas and the names of vendors you especially want to remember. Be sure to follow up with a phone call or email communication after the show if you want more information.

Have fun! Don't be overwhelmed. Make the most of the opportunity to see these professionals in one place at one time. It can save you hours of looking later on.

Take time when you get home to **sort through the information** and file in envelopes or folders. Visit the directory pages on **NCWeddingPlanner.com** and include printed pages from each category containing contact information of additional vendors that you may not have seen at the show.