



WEDDING | The \$1000 Wedding

So you said, YES! Now the work begins. For the next few months of your life leading up to “The Big Day” you will have many exhausting days of planning, and many frustrating moments when you feel like nothing is getting accomplished. You would love to have a large wedding with all the bells and whistles, but the budget doesn’t allow or you would like to spend your funds elsewhere. Well.....

There are so many wedding ideas on how to cut cost for people planning their weddings. Let’s be real about it. No one has an endless budget. However, your wedding can be a beautiful event filled with elegance, love and beauty on a small budget. You have to be willing to make some compromises about venue, decor and attire. The Before the Bells team has created the quince essential small budget wedding plan that can be accomplished for about \$1000. Keep an open mind.

According to *Market Watch* and online website that reports on money matters, reported that the average price of a gourmet cup of coffee cost **\$4.24**. If you multiply that times working days in a year (261 average) that equates to **\$1106.64**. If you give up gourmet coffee for a year you can subsidize your wedding budget. Just a thought.

WEDDING PLAN - \$1000

This plan is for the couple who would like a small intimate wedding. If you can’t spare the expense of an expensive wedding you can still have a small elegant one. This plan has to be followed exactly. If you add items you will add to the budget. This budget leaves a **20%** contingency for a few extra guest or something to splurge on.



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ITEMS	GUEST COUNT <i>"This wedding has a 20% contingency amount built in for extra guest"</i> 30	COST
Ceremony	home or free space	FREE
Reception	Home or free space	FREE
Rentals (tables) 5	6' tables (borrow from a school, church, office where you work)	FREE
Rentals (chairs - 30) Research chair rental store in your area <i>(this will make the event look elegant)</i>	Resin padded chairs \$2.00	30.00
	Tablecloths - (90 x 132 floor length for 6" tables) \$15.00	90.00
Bridal Party (flowers)	Michaels - Bridal Bouquets - 2 for \$18.00 Michaels - 4-6 single roses for boutonnières and corsages \$9.00 Dollar Tree - wire/floral tape/ribbon \$3.00	62.00
Decorations Create Table Scape/ Layout Roses from Costco	Fern leaves (Cut Greens USA) Eucalyptus	30.00
	Costco Roses (white)	40.00
	Caspari - Guest Napkins	21.00
	Votives	50.00
Catering	Family cooking or purchased food	150.00
Tableware (plates, utensils, glassware)	Borrowed (white)	FREE
Glassware	Dollar Tree (stemware)	30.00
Bridal Attire	Borrowed or Used	100.00
Groom's Attire	Wear a Suit in the Closet	FREE
Music	MP3	FREE
Cake (Sam's or Walmart 70.00)	Gift from friend or family	FREE
Favors	Craft Project	25.00
Programs	Print at work/Digital (ask the boss)	FREE
TOTAL	<i>"Something borrowed, Something new"</i>	628.00



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WHAT WILL YOU NEED |

Save the Date

This can be done electronically or by calling those who are not tech savvy. Use Canva to create a cute electronic card. FREE.

Officiant

The officiant can be a friend or your minister.

Bridal Party

Bride, Groom, Maid/Matron of Honor and Bestman

Ceremony

This wedding will have to take place in a free space. This is usually your home, the home of your parents or a close friend.

Reception

The reception will also need to take place in a free space. Usually the same space as the ceremony.

Rentals

You will need to rent chairs. The same chairs will be used for the ceremony and reception.

You will have to rent tablecloths (6).

You should be able to borrow some tables (6): 1 for food; 5 for guests (school, job, neighbors, church)

*Use outdoor patio table for cake (cover with tablecloth)

Bridal Party Flower

Silk Florals - You can make silk flowers DIY or get small bouquets from Michaels or Hobby Lobby already made. Use your coupons!

Fresh Flowers - Another choice is roses from Costco Bulk (50 for 39.99)

Decorations

These decorations will have to make a great statement.

- Paper flowers
- Favors (DIY Project)
- Napkin rings (DIY Project)

The new craze is paper flowers. You should be able to create beautiful decor using these.

Stationery

Create a program on the computer (free) that is colorful to add to your decor. Make it simple and tie a ribbon at the top on it. Embellish it with dollar tree items. Send wedding invitations by Evite or Punchbowl. These online invitation websites will allow you to invite and manage your RSVPs for free.

Photography

Use a close friend who has a good digital camera. They will be glad to give you free service for this momentous occasion.



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Catering

Your family will be glad to assist with creating food from a set menu that you create. Do not let them bring a smorgasbord of items that do not compliment each other. Your reception can still be an elegant event. You also have the option of purchasing food for the small guest list of 30. Here are some suggestions.... You should be able to create these menus for 30-50 people.

WEDDING OPERATING PROCEDURES ("THE WOP")

- Purchase storage containers to store all wedding items in and keep them in one space
- Borrow your mother 's and grandmothers china from the china cabinet. Get the china, wash and wrap it in newsprint (purchase from U-Haul).
- Borrow silverware from your neighbors, mom, friends (look similar) place them in a ziplock bag
- Get stemmed glasses from the Dollar Tree (30).
- Purchase super fancy rectangle-shaped dinner napkins from a party store that match your color scheme

CEREMONY

- Decide where you will set up for the ceremony
 - Inside the living room, dining room, family room or outside on a nice day (move the furniture)
 - Set up for the ceremony (even number of chairs on each side)
- Break down the ceremony area and turn it into a reception space if needed
- Decorate the tables with roses, eucalyptus leaves and votives

COCKTAIL HOUR

ITEMS NEEDED

- Platters (2)
- Small plates
- Small cocktail napkins
- Small clear cups
- Wine and sparkling cider
- Grapes, crackers and cheese

Set these items up in a room ahead of time, so that guests can transition to this space while the wedding party is taking photos and the reception is being set up

PHOTO SESSION

Use this time to take photos with family and friends and socialize with the guest afterwards while waiting for the reception set up.



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LUNCH OR DINNER RECEPTION

ITEMS NEEDED

- Set up tables and chairs
- Tableclothes, plates, silverware and glasses
- Set up decor on table
- Place tea on table
- Place bread on the table
- Place the salad on the table
- Plate all food and serve guests
- Music (MP3, Echo, Google Home)



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MENU #1

(95% of these items must come from Aldi Grocery Store and Walmart SuperCenter)
30 people + bride and groom

"This menu can be extended by using the contingency funds"

Cocktail Hour

Cheese (2 types)
Cracker assortment
2 bottles of wine and sparkling cider

Dinner

Baked Herb Crusted Chicken Breast
California Vegetable Medley
Rice Pilaf
Garden Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing
French Bread Baguette
Iced Tea with Lemon



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GROCERY LIST

Item	Amount	Estimated Cost
COCKTAIL HOUR		
Cheese, crackers, grapes (Aldi)	1 box of assorted crackers, 1 bunch of grapes 2 types of cheese	10.00
Wine and Cider (donated)		FREE
DINNER		
Chicken - frozen breast (boneless) Get a recipe from Youtube or (Aldi Olive Oil and Herb Frozen chicken breast)	60pcs (chicken breast frozen)	60.00
Great Value Vegetable Medley (calliflower, broccoli, carrots)	10 frozen bags	10.00
Earthy Grains Rice Pilaf	10 boxes of rice	10.00
Specially Selected French Baguette	7 loaves	14.00
Mixed green salad with dressing	6 bags 3 bottles of dress	20.00
Tomatoes	2 pints (grape tomatoes)	5.00
Great Value Butter and Garlic Seasons Croutons	2 bags	2.00
Tea	1 box lipton/2 bag of sugar/10 lemons/ice	17.00
TOTAL		148.00



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MENU #2 CHINESE

(serves 30 people - bride and groom)

"This menu can be extended by using the contingency funds"

Cocktail Hour

Cheese (2 types)
Cracker assortment
2 bottles of wine and sparkling cider

Dinner

Chinese Food - Shrimp Fried Rice/ Beef and Broccoli/Black Pepper Chicken
P.F. Chang's Mini Egg Rolls
Garden Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing
Iced Tea with Lemon

SHOPPING/ORDERING LIST

Item	Amount	Estimated Cost
Shrimp fried rice/Beef and Broccoli/Black Pepper Chicken	12 boxes - 6 each - (choose two entrees)	100.00
P.F. Chang's Home Menu Frozen Vegetable Mini Egg Rolls - 8ct/8.8oz	8 ct @ 7 boxes (3.49)	25.00
Specially Selected French Baguette	7 loaves	14.00
Mixed green salad with dressing	6 bags 3 bottles of dress	20.00
Tomatoes	2 pints (grape tomatoes)	5.00
Great Value Butter and Garlic Seasons Croutons	2 bags	2.00
Tea	1 box lipton/2 bag of sugar/10 lemons/ice	17.00
TOTAL	A little over budget, but you don't have to cook	183.00