



THE
GROOMS
GUIDE

A Quick Guide for all Rose Courts Grooms

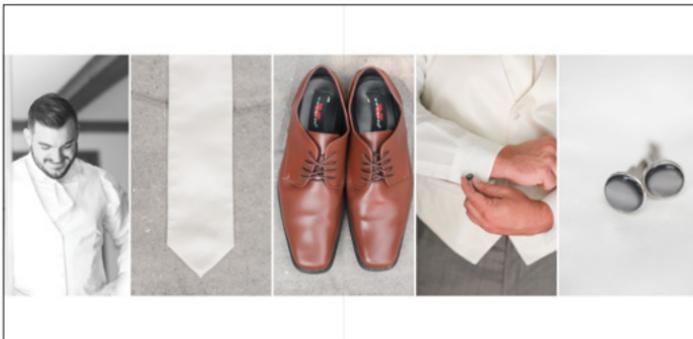


IT'S ABOUT YOU, TOO!

Hey there RC Groom! Welcome! I am so excited that I get the privilege of being a part of this exciting season of your life! I know that often times, the wedding industry really only focuses on the bride. It can easily start to feel like this whole “wedding” thing is only about her but that couldn't be further from the truth! You play a vital role here. If it weren't for you, none of this would be happening in the first place! It's important that I celebrate my RC Grooms and make sure you know that while your bride may be slightly more excited about these images, we know that we're *capturing your legacy* too.... and it matters that you're equally celebrated and educated throughout this process! So, I hope you enjoy your Groom's Guide full of information that I have gathered over the past years of shooting weddings, meeting hilarious groomsmen and working with really awesome guys!

GROOM'S DETAILS

At the beginning of the day, my second shooter will be coming to be a fly on the wall with you and your groomsmen while you're hanging out. I'll explain more about what you can expect during that part of the day in a couple of pages! The first thing she will need to capture are your details. You may be thinking "*Um, I don't have any details...*" but you do! This may seem pointless but let me explain what these details are for. When I design album spreads, the goal of each spread is to tell a visual story of each part of the day. I will use these details shots to break up some of your getting ready shots on your "pre-ceremony" spreads. Take a look at the album spread below to have a visual as to how I use these images that are taken during this time!







The *"Power Pose"*

It'll be your wife-to-be's favorite portrait of you!



GROOM DETAILS

Checklist

These are common details that we shoot on a regular basis but they are, by no means, mandatory in any way! This checklist could also include heirloom items like a pocket-watch or something that was handed down to you and while you may not actually wear it on the wedding day, you would like a shot of it.

- Cuff Links
- Tie or Bow Tie
 - Shoes
- Any Military Detail
- Gifted Liquor
 - Watch
 - Belt
- Socks (if specialty)
- Custom Groomsmen Gifts
 - Boutineers

WHAT TO EXPECT

First of all, I realize that you have never done this before and that you may have preconceived ideas about how the photography part of your wedding experience is going to feel. That's very normal. Having your photos taken isn't always natural and can sometimes be more irritating than fun. The good news is, I am committed to making your time with me not only natural and genuine but also enjoyable! Photography is a huge part of the wedding process and I want my couples to think back to their time with me and say, "That was so much easier than I thought it would be.... in fact, it was actually fun!" In case you were wondering, yes, my second shooter will be with you and your guys for a short period while you're hanging out.

If you read ANYTHING, read this!

Now, I understand that the thought of a photographer, let alone a female photographer, hanging out in the room with you and your best friends on your wedding day probably sounds less than ideal, but here's the good news... 1. She's totally cool and 2. During this time, you can completely ignore her! She has seen the worst of the worst in groomsmen so don't feel like you need to be anything but yourselves! If you want to listen to rap music turned up to 11 -- do it. If you guys are just chillin' watching a game, that's fine, too! She is just there to document this time with your guys for you to remember every detail of the day.

When it's time, she will prompt you (the groom) to do a few staged "getting ready" shots (see right) and a couple classic portraits. We have found that by staging the final touches is the most efficient way to get the shots we need while not interfering with too much of your hangout time! These staged shots will take 10-15 minutes and she will give you clear and concise instructions throughout the whole thing.



A few examples of staged final touches you can expect:

- Putting on your vest, shoes or watch
- Adjusting your tie or cuff links
- An important guy (*best man, father, etc*) helping with your jacket
- A mother or significant woman putting on your boutonniere

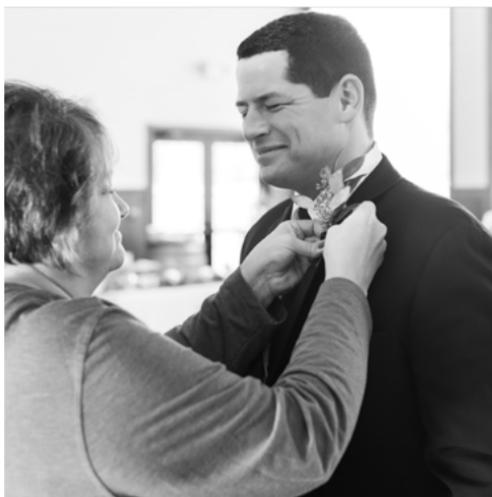




THE FORGOTTEN DETAIL :

The Boutineer

Over the years in business, I have noticed a trend. Boutineers for the groomsmen are the number one detail that gets overlooked. I can't tell you how many times we're getting ready to do a first look or start bridal party portraits and the groomsmen don't have their bouts on! This detail is actually the most time consuming details, especially if you have over 4 or 5 groomsmen because you can't put your boutineer on by yourself--you have to have help. If you have a planner, they will be in charge of remembering the boutineers and putting them on. Sometimes, it's a nice photo opt to have a parent help with this! That leads me to the next page....



INCLUDING MOM *During Getting Ready*

Now, I realize that this topic may not apply to every family. Each and every wedding day that I photograph is full of different family dynamics. It's more than okay to not follow these suggestions if it's not a great fit for your family. In many wedding day situations, I have found that there is very little direction for the Mother of the Groom. It's easy for her to feel lost and not included in the day. The Mother of the Groom often wants to be included but doesn't want to overstep in any way. One very sweet, thoughtful (and simple) way to include the Mother of the Groom is to invite her into the getting ready space and allow her to take a few pictures straightening her son's tie or putting on his boutonniere.





OUR GOAL : *Get you to your*
PARTY

Obviously, we want amazing photos of your day but we also know that the wedding day is not about photos, it's about a lifelong commitment, being with family and friends and celebrating your new marriage! The party is a very important part! I realize that most groomsmen are not pumped about picture time and we get it. That's why my goal, throughout the entire portrait process, is to have fun and get you to your party!! Rowdy groomsmen are a part of every wedding day and I actually find them to be hilarious and fun to work with! However, YOU can actually help us get you to your party faster by doing a few things!

Encourage your guys to pay attention.

If you trust us, they will too.

Reassure them that the more they listen,

the quicker they'll be done.

My goal is to take your photos quickly and efficiently so that you can spend as much time as possible with your friends and family! I love meeting and hanging out with your friends but I make it a top priority to make their experience with me fun, fast and enjoyable!!



BEING THERE FOR YOUR BRIDE

Even if you're getting married to the most relaxed bride on the planet, there will still be moments throughout this process where she will feel stressed. As a recent bride myself, planning a wedding is NOT for the faint of heart. There is a lot to be done, it's expensive and there can sometimes be unspoken expectations and lingering tension during the planning process. She may say it's not stressful and that she's fine and even if that's true, it will speak volumes to her if you do a few of the following:

Check on her : Ask her how planning is going and how she's feeling about it. When she shares concerns, just let her be frustrated and don't try to fix it!

Take on some tasks : You may already have a "honey-do" list for the wedding but if you haven't already asked about helping her with some of her list, that would mean a lot to her! I remember Jacob offering to help with our wedding planning and even though I didn't have a ton of things to hand over to him, it meant so much that he offered!

Encourage Date Nights : It's easy to spend all of your free time working on wedding stuff, but **date nights are important too**. Don't neglect each other in the midst of the busyness of your engagement.

You are her greatest source of encouragement! Through this entire engagement season, you two have a choice. This can either be stressful or it can actually be the most amazing season you have ever had in your relationship! Sure, there is a lot to do and a lot to plan but these next few months will give you an opportunity to love each other in a new way, support each other in a new way, figure out new ways of solving problems, communicate more effectively and learn how to be on each other's team. When you choose to view this season in that light, it changes everything. The season of engagement is supposed to be a time that prepares you for marriage and not a time that you can't wait to get through! If there is anything my husband and I have learned over the years, it's that every season of our life together presents us with an opportunity to either grow closer or distance ourselves from one another. We want you both to draw closer and feel more connected than ever when your wedding day arrives. My encouragement and challenge to you is to fight to make this season a healthy one!

