Bachelorette Party Checklist

By Kent McGroarty

☐ Entertainment

    ☐ **Choose the activities for the evening/weekend** You could organize a scavenger hunt, prepare "bachelorette" versions of well-known party games, dance the night away at a favorite club, go bar hopping, plan a spa weekend, or see a concert or theatrical production. If organizing a scavenger hunt, break the party up into groups, give them a list of items they need to find, and arrange to meet by a specific time at a certain location. Choose prizes for the group that wins, such as free drink tickets at a bar you will be attending.

    ☐ **Purchase tickets or book appointments** ;Get the entertainment lined up about two months before the bachelorette party, and confirm a week before the event.

☐ Logistics

    ☐ **Set a date** Plan the party at least three months beforehand. This gives you plenty of time to talk to the bride about what she wants, pick a date that works for everyone in the bridal party, and designate party responsibilities as needed.

    ☐ **Send out evites or paper invitations at least two months ahead of time** ;Depending on the size of the bachelorette party, you may be able to set a date together before invites go out.

    ☐ **Plan your budget** Come up with a set spending limit for the party that works for everyone. For example, dinner, drinks and dancing might be great for one bachelorette party, while a skiing and spa weekend may be better for another.

    ☐ **Create your travel plans** Choose a mode of transportation at least one month before the party. ;Decide what type of transportation best suits your budget and party plans, whether it be a limo, van, party bus, rental car or cabs. Limos are more comfortable than vans, but cost more. Smaller buses offer bumpier rides than larger buses, but cost less. If your party is in a city, cabs may be the best option as you won't have to worry about parking. Confirm transportation a week before the event.

    ☐ **Gather contact information** ;Get the number of your driver, if applicable, for easy pick-up and drop-off from location to location.

☐ Food and beverage

    ☐ **Purchase the beverages** Pick up Champagne, wine, beer and liquor ahead of time, in accordance with the bride's wishes and the size of your bachelorette party. If the bride is pregnant or some of the bridesmaids cannot or prefer not to drink, provide alcohol-free alternatives, such as sparkling cider and virgin piña coladas.

    ☐ **Prepare snack foods** ;Serve something before you head out for the evening, such as a vegetable platter for vegan and vegetarian friends, chips and dip, popcorn, pretzels and finger foods.

    ☐ **Make reservations for lunch, dinner or brunch** Confirm them a few days before the ;party.

    ☐ **Purchase cups** Plastic versions of Champagne flutes, wine glasses and beer steins are more affordable and portable than glass options. Order monogrammed versions to celebrate the evening or ones with funny sayings on them.

☐ Accommodations

- [ ] Make hotel reservations ;Book hotel rooms for bachelorette parties that last all weekend or for bridesmaids who are flying in for the festivities.
- [ ] Gather sleeping bags, pillows, sheets and blankets ;Use these items for smaller bachelorette parties where guests are crashing at the bride's or one of the bridesmaid's houses or apartments. Set up sleeping bags and make up beds before the party to avoid having to do it late in the evening.
- [ ] Needed items
  - [ ] Purchase tiaras, novelty veil and sashes to wear throughout the evening.
  - [ ] Buy "naughty" party accessories ;Buy bachelorette-themed stirrers, straws, necklaces and anything else you would like to distribute at the party.
  - [ ] Bring a camera to document the night's events You might also want to encourage all bridesmaids with cameras to bring them so you can compare and swap photos after the event.
  - [ ] Visit the ATM or keep a credit card handy Make sure you have available funds for any checks you are splitting with the other bridesmaids.
  - [ ] Pack an overnight bag If planning to stay the night at the bride's house/apartment or are staying in a hotel, an overnight bag and change of clothes is essential.