

Wedding Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I book a wedding/other special event?

A: Our schedule is fully booked for the 2016 summer season. For our 2017 reservations, we have implemented a Lottery system due to the high volume of applicants. This means that Lottery Forms are due to the Special Events Office on or before May 31st, 2016. After that, we will begin drawing names and contacting applicants to allow them to choose a date for their event. This does take time so the Lottery process may actually last a few days rather than just one.

Q: Is the inside of the mansion part of the venue?

A: No. It is an outdoor venue. We do not accept cancellations for inclement weather, and once fees are received by the parks they are 100% non-refundable with the exception of the security deposit. If there is a 70% chance or higher of inclement weather a tent may be allowed if approved beforehand by the Special Events Coordinator.

Q: When can I do a site tour?

A: If you have a confirmed event date from the Lottery, you should contact the Special Events Office and Special Events Coordinator to determine a date for a site tour, as one is mandatory before your event. If you do not have an event date confirmed, we suggest visiting the park with one of our self-guided site tour pamphlets to view the venue and read about events in the park, and submitting a Lottery Form.

Q: How much will a wedding cost?

A: To do a ceremony only, typical total costs are between \$1,250-2,600 depending on size of group. To do a ceremony and reception combination, costs are typically between \$3,000- \$4,250 depending on size of group and date requested.

Q: How many people can attend?

A: For a ceremony ONLY, the maximum number of people (including the wedding party) is 200. For a ceremony AND reception, the maximum number of people (including the wedding party) is 150.

Q: What services and equipment are provided?

A: The location. We do not rent or lend equipment such as tables, chairs etc., nor do we have electrical outlets that can be utilized by vendors since it is a historic site. We do provide you with an extensive list of vendors who have worked with us before, have the necessary equipment and have knowledge of our rules and regulations. We also can provide storage for some items prior to the wedding but this needs to be discussed with the Special Events Coordinator well in advance. One State Parks monitor will be present at your event to insure the permit is being adhered to correctly, but this monitor is not able to assist with set-up or break-down of the event itself. He/she is your main contact person during the event.

Q: Can I use any vendor, or do you have a preferred list?

A: You may use any vendor who has insurance. Our preferred vendors list is a starting point to help you and includes several companies that have worked at our site, are familiar with our rules, regulations and location, and had good reviews from both the Park employees and previous event holders.

Q: What is the alcohol policy?

A: We allow beer, wine and champagne. Liquor, such as whiskey, vodka, gin, etc. is not permitted.

Q: How early can my event start?

A: We have a strict timeline for our June-October weddings, as there are on-going tours at the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion daily. The set up cannot begin until 2:30pm, at which time the ceremony site by the lake

and ONLY the dancefloor may be set up. We can also open the dressing rooms at that time for pictures, and for the bridal parties to prepare for the event. Set up is not permitted to begin for anything else in the reception area outside of the Mansion until 3:30pm. The ceremony may begin at 4:30pm at the earliest and the reception may begin at 5:30pm. The bar (only beer and wine permitted) must do last call at 9:00pm, and must be completely closed by 9:30pm. Guests must start making their way to the parking area and clean-up/break-down must begin at 10:00pm. Break-down must conclude by 12:00am at the latest. Events that run late will have any overtime fees taken out of their security deposit.

Q: Does my party have exclusive access to the area for my event?

A: No. Because we are a public park we cannot block off/prevent access to the beach areas and lawn areas surrounding your event. We will put up signs alerting the public to the event, and make it known beforehand that an event is taking place there later. The public is typically very respectful of our events, but there will still be other people around, especially in peak season.

Q: How do we pay for parking?

A: If your event is more than 100 people, you must prepay for parking passes, which is estimated at 3 people per vehicle, \$10 per vehicle. If your event is less than 100 people you have the option to prepay for parking passes, but this is not required. If you choose not to prepay, guests will be required to purchase their own parking pass upon entering the day use parking area. Failure to obtain parking pass may result in citation. There is also an option for shuttles and taxi services in the Tahoe area.

Q: How do we light our event at night?

A: No poles may be staked into the ground, and nothing can be attached to the historical structures or any plants, but we have many great vendors in the area who have worked with us before. They use free-standing poles and market lighting to create a beautiful ambiance as well as heat lamps if necessary. You also have the option to leave the lights in the Mansion on to create some background light, as long as this is discussed prior to the event with your Special Events Coordinator. The pathway is also unlit, so battery powered lights, solar lanterns, or flashlights should all be considered as alternative means to light the way to the parking lot at the end of the event.

Q: When can I have a wedding?

A: Typically our wedding season is late May – mid October, due to inclement weather outside of these times. We allow weddings on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout most of the summer season with the exceptions of a few blackout weekends. We can hold up to 3 events a weekend, only two of which can be Ceremony AND Reception.