

Wedding Bliss

IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS





Photo by Katharyne Dunn Photography

Wedded bliss is what you will find when you book your wedding venue at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The Iowa State Fairgrounds provides four diverse venues and three breathtaking stages to fit every Iowa State Fair style. The historical Iowa State Fairgrounds has the charm and elegance every couple dreams of on the big day.

We are so excited to make the dreams of your big day a reality! Check out all of the amenities we can offer you and your valued guests.

Let's start planning your happily ever after!

All available venues are open for showings upon request.

Please contact the Interim Events Department at **515.262.3111 ext. 282** or email **interimevents@iowastatefair.org** to schedule a showing or to answer any questions you may have.

OUTDOOR CEREMONIES

Timeless Style



OUTDOOR CEREMONIES

Celebrate your special day in the grand outdoors! Make your day memorable in one of the three picturesque and unique outdoor ceremony venues. These venues offer distinct architectural styles that cultivate an unparalleled atmosphere just for you. From wonderful photographs to beautiful landscapes, our outdoor venues have it all.

Susan Knapp Amphitheater

Dimensions: 99 ft x 39 ft

Venue Price: \$1,000-\$1,500 per day

Venue Amenities

- Wedding party dressing room
- Public restrooms

MidAmerican Energy Stage

Dimensions: 72 ft x 39 ft

Venue Price: \$1,000 per day

Venue Amenities

- Wedding party dressing room
- Public restrooms
- Brand new as of 2015 with permanent seating as a great convenience

Anne and Bill Riley Stage

Dimensions: 94 ft x 35 ft

Venue Price: \$500-\$750 per day

Venue Amenities

- Public restrooms



*The English
believe a
spider found
in a wedding
dress means
good luck!*





Photo by Maggie Mae Images

LEARNING CENTER

Sophisticated Style

Learning Center

Built in 2010, the Paul R. Knapp Learning Center showcases the sophisticated Iowa State Fair style. This venue offers a plush, one-of-a-kind, grand atmosphere. The breathtaking natural lighting is beautiful for ceremonies and photographs. An attached bridal suite provides an additional comfort for you and your wedding party.

Available: January-June, September-December

Venue Price: \$4,050 (\$700 deposit due with contract)

Dimensions: 180' x 96' Square Footage: 17,280

Venue Amenities

- One decorating day immediately before event (based on availability)
- Use of Learning Center from 8 a.m. – midnight on event day
- Access to Learning Center from 8 a.m. – noon the next day for tear-down (based on availability)
- Open catering (outside catering fees apply)
- Complimentary internet access
- Liability insurance through Iowa State Fair carrier
- Access to state of the art design software, *Social Tables*, to assist in venue layout

Included Equipment

- 400 chairs (brown metal folding)
- Choice of one of the following:
 - 50 banquet tables (seat 8)
 - 50 5 ft round tables (seat 8)
- 10 cocktail tables
- 4 buffet/dessert tables
- 40 ft x 8 ft stage (this is a stage large enough for a 16-person head table)
- 1 set of stairs
- Kitchen area equipped with refrigerator, sink and counter space
- Trash receptacles provided and taken care of following the event
- Table and chair set-up and tear down

Wedding Party Amenities

- Use of outdoor Fairgrounds for photographs
- Wedding party dressing room with full sized refrigerator and private bathroom

Guest Amenities

- Two public restrooms
- Free parking
- Easily accessible
- ADA accessible



Queen Victoria is credited with starting the Western world's white wedding dress trend in 1840 – before then, brides simply wore their best dress.



**Additional tables, chairs and staging available at cost, additional priced equipment and services listed in contract*

**Gold chiavari chairs (400) with ivory cushions are \$1,500*



Photo by Malinda's Photo Company

YOUTH INN

Modern Elegance

Youth Inn

Built in 1942, the Youth Inn is an outstanding example of art deco design. The rounded corners and glass block on the 12-inch thick steel-reinforced concrete exterior walls exemplify this style of architecture. Renovations to the building were completed in 2016, which included new windows, improvements to the main floor, and an enhanced kitchen facility. This space offers tiered seating, ensuring all eyes will be on you and your partner.

Available: January-June, September-December

Venue Price: \$2,765 (\$500 deposit due with contract)

Venue Amenities

- One decorating day immediately before event (based on availability)
- Use of Youth Inn from 8 a.m. – midnight on event day
- Access to Youth Inn from 8 a.m. – noon the next day for tear-down (based on availability)
- Open catering (outside catering fees apply)
- Complimentary internet access
- Liability insurance through Iowa State Fair carrier
- Access to state of the art design software, *Social Tables*, to assist in venue layout

Included Equipment

- Seating for 400 in main auditorium
- Seating for total of 120 on mezzanines
- Permanent stage and steps
- Trash receptacles provided and taken care of following the event
- Table and chair set-up and tear down

Wedding Party Amenities

- Use of outdoor Fairgrounds for photographs

Guest Amenities

- Two public restrooms
- Free parking
- Easily accessible
- ADA accessible

**Additional tables, chairs and staging available at cost*

**Additional priced equipment and services listed in contract*



Rain on your wedding day is actually considered good luck, according to Hindu tradition.





Photo by Katharyne Dunn Photography

AGRICULTURE BUILDING

Rustic Style

Agriculture Building

The Agriculture Building exhibits the rustic Iowa State Fair style. From the exposition-style architecture to the luxurious Discovery Garden, the Agriculture Building is a venue your guests won't soon forget. This two tiered design with a balcony offers endless opportunities for ceremonies, cocktail hours and receptions. Over 100 years of Iowa State Fair history and tradition are built upon this venue and it is the perfect place to start your happily ever after.

Available: May-June and September

Venue Price: \$3,020 (\$500 deposit due with contract)

Dimensions: 100' x 290' Square Footage: 29,000 (main floor)

Venue Amenities

- One decorating day immediately before event (based on availability)
- Use of Agriculture Building from 8 a.m. – midnight on event day
- Access to Agriculture Building from 8 a.m. – noon the next day for tear-down (based on availability)
- Opening catering (outside catering fees apply)
- Complimentary internet access
- Liability insurance through Iowa State Fair carrier
- Access to state of the art design software, *Social Tables*, to assist in venue layout

Included Equipment:

- 38 banquet tables (seat 8)
- 304 chairs
- 10 cocktail tables
- 3 buffet/dessert tables
- 40 ft x 8 ft stage (this is a stage large enough for a 16-person head table)
- 1 set of stairs
- Trash receptacles provided and taken care of following the event
- Kitchen area equipped with refrigerator, sink, and counter space
- Table and chair set-up and tear down

Wedding Party Amenities

- Use of outdoor Fairgrounds for photographs, with access to the newly re-designed Discovery Garden

Guest Amenities

- Free parking
- Easily accessible
- ADA accessible
- Public restrooms

**Additional tables, chairs and staging available at cost*

**Additional priced equipment and services listed in contract*





Photo by Fieldstone Photography

..... ELWELL FAMILY FOOD CENTER Contemporary Style

Elwell Family Food Center

The Elwell Family Food Center illustrates the contemporary Iowa State Fair style. This venue was fully renovated in 2008; the beautiful brick and luxurious natural lighting allows this venue to transform into the perfect fairy tale. Finding a caterer is a piece of cake as this venue has one provided for you to allow you to focus on other important details of your big day. This venue can accommodate the simple casual feel or the extravagance of a grand ballroom.

Available: January-June, September-December

Venue Price: \$3,175 (\$600 deposit due with contract)

Dimensions: 100' x 150' Square Footage: 15,000

Venue Amenities

- One decorating day immediately before event (based on availability)
- Use of Elwell from 8 a.m. – Midnight on event day
- Access to Elwell from 8 a.m. – Noon the next day for tear-down
- Complimentary internet access
- Campbells Concessions: 515.262.3111 ext. 4501 (price of food not included in venue price)
- Liability insurance through Iowa State Fair carrier

Included Equipment

- 240 chairs (brown metal folding)
- Choice of one of the following:
 - 30 banquet tables (seat 8)
 - 30 5 ft round tables (seat 8)
- 6 cocktail tables
- 3 buffet/dessert tables
- 40 ft x 8 ft stage (this is a stage large enough for a 16-person head table)
- 1 set of steps
- Trash receptacles provided and taken care of following the event
- Table and chair set-up and tear down
- Access to state of the art design software, *Social Tables*, to assist in venue layout

Wedding Party Amenities

- Wedding party dressing room with full sized refrigerator and private bathroom
- Use of outdoor Fairgrounds for photographs

Guest Amenities

- Public restrooms
- Free parking
- Easily accessible
- ADA accessible

**Additional tables, chairs and staging available at cost*

**Additional priced equipment and services listed in contract*



The longest-married couple on record is Herbert Fisher and Zelmyra Fisher. They were married for 86 years, 9 months and 16 days!





Photo by Katharyne Dunn Photography

WALNUT CENTER

Practical Style

Walnut Center

The Walnut Center features the practical Iowa State Fair style for couples looking for an intimate venue to tie the knot. The creative possibilities are endless at the Walnut Center. This venue has the accessibility to take once in a lifetime photographs with all of your favorite iconic Fair attractions. The Walnut Center is readily available and allows for open catering.

Available: January-June, September-December

Venue Price: \$1,700 (\$350 deposit due with contract)

Dimensions: 65' x 107' Square Footage: 7,000

Venue Amenities

- One decorating day immediately before event (based on availability)
- Use of Walnut Center from 8 a.m. – Midnight on event day
- Access to Walnut Center from 8 a.m. – Noon the next day for tear-down (based on availability)
- Opening catering (outside catering fee applies)
- Complimentary internet access
- Liability insurance through Iowa State Fair carrier
- Access to state of the art design software, *Social Tables*, to assist in venue layout

Included Equipment

- 160 chairs
- Choice of one of the following:
 - 20 banquet tables (seat 8)
 - 20 5 ft round tables (seat 8)
- 4 cocktail tables
- 2 buffet/dessert tables
- 24 ft x 8 ft stage (large enough for 8-person head table)
- 1 set of steps
- Trash receptacles provided and taken care of following the event

Wedding Party Amenities

- Use of outdoor Fairgrounds for photographs

Guest Amenities

- Public restrooms
- Free parking
- Easily accessible
- ADA accessible

**Additional tables, chairs and staging available at cost*

**Additional priced equipment and services listed in contract*



Engagement and wedding rings are worn on the fourth finger of the left hand because it was once thought that a vein in that finger led directly to the heart.





Photo by Fieldstone Photography



Photo by Katharyne Dunn Photography



Photo by Paige Wallace Photography

..... *Chiavari Chairs*

Gold Chiavari chairs are available for rent at an additional cost.

- 400 chairs available
- Rent for \$4 each or \$1,500 if renting all 400
- Can only be rented in the Animal Learning Center
- Includes an ivory padded cushion



Photo by Paige Wallace Photography



Photo by Paige Wallace Photography



Photo by Paige Wallace Photography



Photo by Maggie Mae Images

Vendors

Make your day special by bringing in a caterer to match your style! All venue options (*with the exception of The Elwell Family Food Center*) allow open catering. If you wish to have a caterer familiar with the Fairgrounds, the following options have locations on the Fairgrounds to best accommodate your special day.

B.E.S.T. Catering

203 SE 34th St
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
515.202.5599
mrustad@turkeytimecons.com

Campbells Concessions*

P.O. Box 57094
Iowa State Fairgrounds
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
515.262.3111 Ex 4501
515.238.9979
campbellscorndogs@msn.com

**Must be used in Elwell Family Food Center*

*On average,
7,000 couples
marry each
day in the
United States.*



Photo by Katharyne Dunn Photography

..... Important Details

Reserve your date

A signed contract and non-refundable contract fee are required to secure a wedding facility and available date. The contract fee is credited toward the final bill and varies per building. A separate deposit is due 30 days before occupancy and varies per building.

Pre-Event

A pre-event meeting or phone call is required with the Iowa State Fair Interim Event Coordinator 2-3 weeks prior to the event. The layout will need to be provided at this time.

Final Payment

The final bill will include additional expenses such as damages, catering fee, etc. Final invoices will be sent 15-30 days following event. Payment is due no later than 30 days after final invoice is sent.

Insurance

All events on the Iowa State Fairgrounds require general liability insurance. This insurance protects the renting party against bodily injury. This fee is included in the Wedding Package Price.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If the renting party should, for any reason, cancel after submitting their advance deposit, the Iowa State Fair shall retain the initial deposit plus a sum equal to the expenses already incurred in preparation for the facility rental.

Set-Up & Tear-Down

The Iowa State Fair allows one setup/decorating day immediately before and several hours for décor/equipment removal immediately following the scheduled wedding event date. These setup and tear-down days are included in your rental fee. In some instances, a full day of setup or tear-down may not be available.

Facility Usage Hours the Day of the Event

Your Wedding Package Price covers the use of the facility for a standard 16 hour period from 8 a.m. until midnight. All guests must vacate the facility no later than midnight. Decorations and rental equipment may be removed during the allotted tear-down hours the following day.

Food & Beverage Catering

All food and beverage catering is subject to a 19.5% surcharge. The caterer pays the applicable surcharge directly to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. This fee is not included in the venue price.

The Iowa State Fairgrounds has final authority to determine when, where and how alcoholic beverages are served. The presence of a Des Moines Police Officer is required at weddings where any alcoholic beverage is served. This must be arranged directly through Des Moines Police Department.

Equipment Rentals & Decoration

The Iowa State Fairgrounds currently offers rental of multiple table sizes and shapes. They are offered for \$12/table if any additional are needed. Additional folding chairs are also available at \$1/chair. Additional equipment must be requested before 2 p.m. on the Friday before the event.

The Iowa State Fairgrounds does not provide decorating services; however outside decorating companies are welcome to provide decor for weddings. Please refer to our policy book for specific decoration guidelines. Tape, nails, screws and tack may not be used on walls, doors, windows, pillars or floors. No flames allowed in buildings.

Sound systems are available to rent upon request.

Lost/Stolen Articles

The Iowa State Fair is not responsible for any items lost or stolen during the event, set-up or removal. Unclaimed articles should be removed on the tear-down/removal day. Any items left on the Fairgrounds after the tear-down/removal day may be considered abandoned and disposed of by the Iowa State Fair at the discretion of Fair management and at the cost of the renting party.

Damage to the Facility

Renting party and its guests may not damage, mar or deface Iowa State Fair property. If any portion of the premises is damaged, the renting party will be responsible for the Iowa State Fair's labor and/or materials to restore property to its condition before the event.

Parking

Parking on the Fairgrounds is free and available on the streets or in lots surrounding the rented facility.

Smoking and Vaping

In accordance with the Smokefree Air Act, the Iowa State Fairground venues are smoke and vape free.



Cover photos by Katharyne Dunn Photography



IowaStateFair

**NOTHING
COMPARES**

