

BARBARA'S BRIDAL SHOWER CHECKLIST

Getting Started

- Contact the bride OR the bride's mother or mother-in-law and let them know that you'd like to throw a shower in her honor.
- Offer to take charge or help in planning the event.
- Find out from the bride, the bride's mother or the bride's mother-in-law who else has offered to entertain - these will be your co-hosts.

Let the planning begin!

- Ask the bride to give you a few dates for the shower that work best for her and her family.
- Send the dates to the other co-hosts and agree on one together.
- Let the bride and her family know what date is chosen.
- Organize a planning meeting with the other hostesses.

At the meeting...

- Nail down the below specifics:
 - Venue: _____
 - Budget: _____
 - Theme: _____
- If it's decided that it will be at someone's home, decide on what kind of menu by hiring a caterer or assigning dishes to hostesses.
- Decide whether you want to be creative with an activity like a bridal shower game, or sharing recipes with the bride. There are many different ideas online for games and activities.

Divide and conquer

- Divide duties among the hostesses for the following:
 - Invitations: _____
 - Stamping and addressing invitations: _____
 - Decorations: _____
 - Place Cards: _____
 - Party Favors: _____
 - Shower gift for the bride: _____

Spread the word

- Get the guest list and addresses from the bride.
- It's always a nice touch to go to the post office and choose a stamp that is floral, or love-inspired to put on the envelope.
- Use a colorful felt tip pen that matches the invitation to address the envelopes.
- Send out the invitations 4 - 6 weeks before the shower or party.

Fun and Games

- It's a fun tradition to use the bows from each gift given at the shower to make a bouquet for the bride to use at the actual Wedding Rehearsal the day before the wedding when she practices walking down the aisle. (You can bring a styrofoam ball and use straight pins to pin the bows around it or bring 2 paper plates an insert and tie the bows all around it or perhaps there's some other adorable way to do this.)
 - Another fun activity is to have the bride open gifts alongside her guests. Following lunch, the bride picks a one member of the bridal party to help open the gifts and another to keep a list of who gave what so that the bride can write thank you notes. This team effort approach is especially helpful when the party is large to speed up the process.
 - Check out Pinterest and wedding blogs like The Knot for more cute bridal shower games and activities.
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