

Who Gets an Invitation?

You've chosen the perfect invitation,. Now they are sitting in boxes on your dining room table. So who actually gets one of these things anyway?

The answer is simple. Every single person who is invited to your wedding should have their name on an invitation. Everyone. Even your cousin's baby...even your mother. It may sound extreme, but it is really necessary if you want to keep your numbers where they should be and avoid a seating and catering nightmare. By making sure that each person is included in a printed invitation, you avoid giving information off the cuff, confusing your guests, and losing track of who is coming and who isn't.

Now, from what you just read, don't think you have to send five invitations to a family of five. The outer envelope holds the names of the main invitee(s) and the inner envelope is the place for the individual names of all invited family members or guests.

So what happens if your list is too long? You know you'll be including immediate family and good friends, but if you need to cut back, it's time to take a look at a few specific groups of people.

Co-workers

The easiest way to cut back on guests is to limit co-workers who are not close friends. This can be difficult as you may feel obligated to invite your boss, but the best way to do this is to make a distinct cut-off and stick to it, even if you feel awkward talking to people for a few weeks. You may need to eliminate all work-related guests, or limit your list to just bosses, or just to your department. People, especially those who have planned a wedding, will understand that you wish you could invite everyone, but you have to limit your list due to space.

Children

Personally, I can't imagine having a wedding without kids around -- who would do the chicken dance? If you intend on inviting children to your wedding, be sure to include their names on the inner envelope of their parents' invitation. If you choose not to invite children, make sure to only include the parents' names on the inner envelope...and you should probably skip the chicken dance.

Extended family

Just like your co-workers, with this group, you'll need a definite cut-off. Aunts and uncles may be a "yes," but you need to leave out the cousins, or maybe great-aunts and great-uncles are in, but you'll have to draw the line on your father's cousins. Again, people will understand if you make a judgment across the board.

Good luck!