

Trent Lott National Center

The Trent Lott National Center is conveniently located on Southern Miss's campus just off of US Highway 49. The magnificent fountain out front coupled with the sparkling glass and shimmering marble within gives this space star appeal.



From the rotunda (pictured above) to the quad rooms for you sparkling reception, your event is sure to be the vision you have imagined since you said, "yes!"



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Wed Over Heels!

It's wedding season, y'all! And what better way to approach this time than planning for your dream wedding — one to be that will leave you **wed over heels!**

In order to plan your perfect day, there are two big decisions you must make (well besides picking your special someone!). You need to choose your venue and your dress. Once you have those two, your dreams will come to life.

Your venue should say just as much about you as your dress. Then you colors, food, and decor will dictate the mood of your wedding. Rustic decor coupled with delicate accents is one of the most popular trends amongst the wedding world. It's simply full of southern charm and modern elegance.

Big, Bold, Bright!

Yellow is one of the boldest colors found in nature and it is often overlooked for weddings. However, if you're looking to make an elegant and spunky statement this is the ideal color for your big day.

These are words often associated with this golden hue. It is an ideal accent color adding life and joy to all occasions. It can be worn alone as seen by these bridesmaids pictured to the right, or it can be accessorize the almost any color in the spectrum.

Cheerful. Playful. Illuminating. Be daring. Be bold. Be bright! Embrace your happiness.



Food for the Soul

Comfort food is good for the soul. It's so good, it's now becoming a part of the day when two souls join together for all eternity. Traditionally, unless a bride and groom

elect to have a formal sit down meal with their guests the food is a heavy hor d'oeuvres. The big trend now is to incorporate a heartier meal full of comforting delicacies.

The two big ideas showing up across weddings in the south are biscuit bars and grits bars. Since those foods are such a part of the southern culture, it only makes sense that they would become a part of one of the most important days in a couple's lives.

The biscuit bar serves up all those homespun goodies from gravy to honey to jellies. Ultimately, you need to know that having a biscuit bar means you need selections! One or two toppings will not do. The more you have, the more interesting and appetizing your bar will be for your and your guests. Your

selection of toppings can vary from the traditional to spicy peach habanero pepper jelly. Fresh fruit is a great option to include in your spread also. However, the one key ingredient that is required for all biscuit bars in the south is butter! It can be simple plain butter, butter infused with spices such as cinnamon, or even apple butter. You simply cannot forget the butter.

With all that, who could resist nibbling on all of those buttery treats?

The second big craze in the world of comfort foods is the grits bar. They are often served much the same with a wide array of toppings. Some of those are as

simple as cheddar cheese, but can be as delectable as a lovely cajun cream sauce full of tasso ham and shrimp. Southern style shrimp and grits. Delicious! It gets your mouth watering just thinking about all of that goodness.



Again, provide your guests with the choices and it's sure to be a hit!

Tablescapes

Tablescapes are the culmination of your event decor. This is where your colors and your vision come together. Once you determine your linens, cutlery, and centerpieces the vision is complete. The more monochromatic your scheme, the more formal your event will feel. More color adds a more casual flair for your event. Below are examples of each.



Tips for planning your day

Each wedding is uniquely yours. However, there are times when consulting experts or those who have a little experience can benefit any bride. Below are eight simple tips to make your day and planning process easier.

Your first, most important investment. You may find that hiring a professional planner is an investment that pays for itself. "The money and time a planner can save is valuable," says wedding planner Lisa Milko, of Event Perfect in Atlanta. "I can negotiate discounts a couple cannot, make recommendations and budget-saving places that many people would not consider, or be able to do without a little direction."

Know where to start. Bent on doing it all on your own? You'll need a place to jump in! A budget and a guest list are priority for starters! The two are related, and cutting the guest list is the single best way to save money. Once those details are in place, you'll have a better sense of the type of wedding that suits you best.

Don't be afraid to ask. Since busy season for wedding vendors is usually in the summer time, some businesses may be willing to cut you a deal for a fall wedding. Makeup artists, bakeries, and even some wedding venues may lower their prices in an attempt to generate business during their off season so keep an eye open and don't forget to ask. The worst thing they can say is no!

Warn your wedding goers. Keep your wedding guests happy by warning them about event locations so that they can dress accordingly. It's pretty hard to get swept up in the wedding magic while you're freezing, so you may want to consider providing heaters, blankets, or umbrellas if there's a chance the weather is going to be unruly. Taking these

extra steps will keep the focus on you, not on your poor planning.

Be one with nature. - Take advantage of the season's natural beauty by incorporating specific nature elements into your big day. Consider using things like twigs, leaves, fresh flowers, apples, fruits, and cranberries in your centerpieces, bouquet, and wedding photos. These things not only drive home the seasonal theme but also add loads of color and texture for little or no money! Woot Woot!

Be diligent in hiring vendors. The last thing you want is a band whose lead singer cracks off-color jokes, or a caterer who puts out dry, cold food. Get references and check them! Taste food, sample products and ask questions. You are spending a lot of money on this day, even on a budget. You deserve to get what you're paying for. Remember you are the customer so you always have options...Don't hesitate to use them!

Anticipate challenges. Things can and do go wrong, and you'll need to prepare as best you can. One of the biggest tasks a planner takes on is day-of logistics. Who is going to put out the place cards? Who cues the band? Who loads the leftover favors and alcohol in the car at the end of the night? Who sews a bridesmaid into a dress with a broken zipper? Those are just a few of the many — many — things that cross my plate almost every weekend.

Keep the process in perspective. No wedding, however well planned, is perfect. Yours won't be, either, and that's OK. "It's important to remember that this is just one day and one party! Try to enjoy the process of planning. It should be a fun time of decision-making and celebrating your engagement! Enjoy the process because this experience is meant to be perfect and tailored just for you!