

Frequently Asked Questions



Photo by April G Photography

Q. What are the expectations for wedding guests' interaction with the restaurant?

The Oaks restaurant is open to the public beginning at 5:00 pm. Wedding guests will be expected to stay within the wedding rental spaces and not hang out or sit down at the restaurant dining rooms or terraces. Wedding guests also will be encouraged to use the restrooms in the rental venue. In turn, restaurant patrons will only be permitted in the wedding rental area to use the handicapped accessible ramps and restrooms, when necessary for wheelchair bound patrons or patrons not able to negotiate steps. There are public spaces that will be open to both wedding guests and restaurant patrons. Those spaces are the walkway to the pagoda, the beach, the lawn, the smoking patio and the ceremony site when the ceremony is completed.

Restaurant patrons are expected to be respectful of wedding ceremonies and will not be permitted to come down the walkway or to the pagoda when ceremonies are taking place. Restaurant patrons do watch from their seats on the terraces, so do not be surprised if you hear clapping from the terraces at your first kiss as a married couple! We are all romantics at heart!

Q. When does a typical 7-hour event time block begin and end?

The 7-hour event time block begins when guests are expected to arrive. Typically, for an evening wedding, the block starts at 4:00 pm and ends at 11:00 pm. In no event will the event end later than midnight.

Q. When can the bridal party or vendors arrive at the venue?

The bridal party as well as vendor deliveries and decorators may arrive at 11:00 am and will have access to the venue from 11:00 am on. We ask that vendors complete their deliveries and set-ups by one hour prior to the time guests are expected to arrive. Early access is permitted as early as 9:00 am. For a fee of \$50 for each additional 30-minute interval exceeding twelve hours till end of the event. If access is given the day or night before, it will be for a maximum of 3 hours. Patron is responsible for clean-up of all debris and waste left after decorating.

Q. When do things have to be removed from the venue?

We often have an event scheduled the next day, therefore, all items must be removed within an hour of the end of the event unless prior written permission is given. A fee may be assessed against the deposit for late removal.

Q. When are final head counts due?

Final head counts are due 21 days prior to the event. You will be responsible for this amount and your guest count cannot be reduced from this. You may increase your head count up to 10 days prior to your event.

Q. When can I schedule a ceremony rehearsal?

A 2-hour rehearsal time block will be available before your event. Your wedding specialist will work with you to find a mutually suitable time for your rehearsal.

Q. Is there any smoking permitted on the premises?

The Oaks building as well as the outside veranda and terraces are completely NON-SMOKING. Outside, there is a pachyderm smoker's patio that is the only designated patron smoking area on the premises, and it is the ONLY place on the premises where guests are permitted to smoke. The smoking patio is also available to set-up for a cigar bar for the event.

Q. If I want to use different dinnerware or tables and chairs, can I use a vendor to bring in such items?

Yes, you may bring in other vendors for items that we provide. If there is a cost for storing our items, you will be responsible for that cost.

Q. Can we have stations for our buffet?

We are happy to set up your buffet in any way that facilitates getting the food into the hands of your guests in a timely manner while at the same time staging the presentation in a beautiful and creative way. We require a minimum of 50 people to do a buffet or stationed set-up.

Q. Can we offer our guests décor options for plated dinners?

Yes, you may choose up to three entrees for guests to pre-order. If you have more than one plated décor, then you must provide The Oaks with a master seating chart indicating which décor each guest will receive at each place setting. You must offer the choices in your invitation packet and you must provide place cards which you will place at each guest's seat which will indicate their décor selection. The final count for each décor must be given to The Oaks 14 days prior to the event.

Q. Do you allow decorations?

Yes! We welcome decorations such as flowers, candles, lighting and other accessories. We do NOT allow anything (no nails, tape, contact adhesive, etc.) to be applied to the walls, woodwork, floors or hung from the ceiling or light fixtures. Candles must be in containers to protect our surfaces and linens from wax dripping or accidentally catching on fire.

We do NOT allow confetti, glitter, sequins, rice, small rocks or gems. We do NOT allow confetti, glitter, sequins, rice, small rocks, gems or silk flower petals outside. Paper lanterns and helium balloons are NOT to be released into the sky or into the water. We do NOT allow any wall décor. There are absolutely no exceptions. You will need prior permission to stick anything into the ground such as an arch or tent supports, games etc. otherwise, you risk damaging our lawn sprinkling system.

Q. What type of music is permitted?

The venue can accommodate a DJ, a small or large band or you can play your playlist through our sound system. There is power at the ceremony site but no speakers. We recommend you have amplification at the ceremony site. Our DJ speaker system allows a DJ to use an XLR cord to plug their mixer into our Bose speakers inside the venue, eliminating the need for him/her to haul in their heavy speakers. This service is of value to your DJ. If you rent our venue, we do not charge you or your DJ for this service and if you get a discount from your DJ, it is yours to keep! We suggest your music vendor become familiar with our venue before the event to determine what equipment will be needed.

Q. Do you have any restrictions concerning the send-off of the guests of honor?

We do allow 17" sparklers, ribbons, bubbles and butterflies in the parking lot. If you have sparklers, you must sign a release and provide buckets of sand or water for your guests to put the spent sparklers in and you will be responsible for safely disposing of them. No floating lanterns (air or water) or helium balloons will be allowed.

Q. Are fireworks permitted?

Fireworks are NOT permitted unless a permit has been obtained through the local authorities (Lafayette Township), a fire truck and EMT are on site, you have signed a liability release and you have obtained liability insurance.

Q. What is the role of the day of event liaison?

Your day of event liaison will open the venue for you, set-up and serve any drinks, snacks, or luncheon food you have ordered and answer questions regarding the venue and the catering. Your liaison will direct your vendors in the set-up and work with your DJ and/or wedding planner in the execution of the event timeline so that food and beverage is served in a timely manner. The event liaison is the link with the kitchen and waitstaff and will stay on site until dinner has been served and cleared. The event liaison is not available to greet wedding guests as they arrive or direct them where to sign the registry or find their table assignments. It is suggested that a friend, family member or wedding planner be designated to stand at the entrance to greet guests and show them where to sign the registry, where to find their table assignment, where to drop their gifts and how to get to the ceremony site. We can assign a staff member to do this for a fee of \$75.

Q. What is the recommended number of pieces of hors d'oeuvres per person for the cocktail hour?

Cocktail hour while the bridal party is taking pictures is usually about 1 ½ hours long. We recommend a minimum of 6-8 pieces per person for this length of time. A longer cocktail period would call for more pieces or if you want a more robust serving during cocktails, then 10-12 pieces would help ensure you will not run out and everyone will feel satisfied as they are waiting for dinner.

Q. Do you require security?

Yes, all events with over 50 guests and a bar are required to provide professional security for the last THREE hours of the event.



Photo By Jenna Greenwalt Photography