

Planning to camp out to sign up for a Duke Chapel wedding date?

Here are a few items of interest:

Chapel weddings can be booked only one year in advance of the wedding month. **They must take place in-person.**

While we do not encourage camping out on Chapel grounds to sign up for a wedding date in the Chapel, it seems to have become a part of the “Duke experience.” Duke Police and the Grounds Dept. have come to accept the fact that we sometimes have campers.

Anyone can sign up for you. The members of the couple do not have to be present. We have had pledges paid to wait in line, grandparents, parents, friends, fellow students, etc.

The Wedding Coordinator will be in the Chapel at 8:30 a.m. on the first business day of each month with the official sign-up sheet.

We have found through the years, that Duke students and graduates know how to camp out. When parents and grandparents are thrown into the mix, problems sometimes arise.

Chapel campers set their own rules. Usually the first campers to arrive determine if/when campers can leave Chapel grounds and still maintain their place in line. Communication is key. Get to know the other campers.

The Chapel hosts a large number and variety of University and worship events, and not every weekend will be available for weddings. Please call or email the Wedding Coordinator at least 2-3 days before your arrival to confirm that your ideal date is available for sign-ups.

If you are planning to set up a tent, please use the space beneath the big magnolia tree to the right of the Chapel (facing the front of the Chapel) beside the Divinity School. That way, the sprinkler system will not surprise you in the wee hours of the morning.

We do not have any way to predict when/if campers will arrive or what dates they are most interested in signing up for. Please, please, please don't ask us to give you our “best guess.”

When you arrive to camp out, call or email the Wedding Coordinator to notify her of your arrival. If the Chapel is open (generally between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. during the academic year and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the summer), it is wise to also check in with the Visitor Relations Staff at the greeter's desk inside the Chapel. They *might* have a list of rules and/or available dates and times.

Restroom facilities are not available at the Chapel. However, Page Auditorium and the Bryan Center are nearby.

When you or your representative signs the official wedding reservation list, we will expect your completed contract and deposit within ten (10) business days.

If you would like to learn more, please refer to the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the Chapel Weddings website (chapel.duke.edu/worship/weddings) and to the following articles:

- * Carroll, L. (2012, July). [White Dress Tenting](#). *The Chronicle*. (Note that the overall cost of a Chapel wedding is \$2100, not “slightly more than \$3,000,” as the Chronicle reports.)
- * Ball, S. (2006, August). [Tenting for A Chapel Wedding](#). *The Chronicle*.
- * Green, M. (2013, June/July). [Married in the Heart of Duke](#). *Working@Duke*.

Hope this is helpful!