**Wedding Gown Shopping Preparation Checklist**

\_\_\_ **Create a lookbook of gowns**
 Use magazines or the internet to find gowns in styles you want to try on. Put these images together in a folder or scrapbook to bring with you.

\_\_\_ **Set a firm budget**
 Decide on your budget with anyone involved in the purchase. Remember to include the price of alterations.

\_\_\_ **Research temperature and location recommendations**
 Look online to see what sort of dresses brides wore for wedding venues similar to yours. Likewise, consider the temperature and if you will need a shrug for your dress.

\_\_\_ **Make a list of stores to visit**
 Write down the name and location of each gown store you want to visit, and allow two to three hours for each visit. Many places require an appointment just to try on dresses, so call ahead.

\_\_\_ **Decide on a date to go**
 This date should be done many months to a year before the actual wedding. You’ll want plenty of time for shopping and alterations.

\_\_\_ **Decide on who to bring with you**
 You will obviously need to bring anyone who is helping to pay for the dress. Decide if you want the groom involved, relatives, or friends. Opinions from others on dresses can be helpful, but they can also be distracting.

\_\_\_ **Know your undergarments**
 Wedding dresses are fit to your exact measurements for the day of your wedding, so if you are wearing a corset or other irregular piece, make sure it is ready before you go shopping.

\_\_\_ **Know your accessories**
 If you know for sure you are going to be wearing a certain pair of shoes or piece of jewelry, pack it with you for the shopping trip. The alterations take into account heel height, and you want your dress to match any jewelry.