



WEDDING AND BRIDAL PHOTOGRAPHY 2012

For those considering the Missouri Botanical Garden as the location for wedding or bridal photography, please review the following rules and guidelines in advance of your photo shoot. We regret that the volume of requests for photography is such that this policy must be enforced.

Membership and Admission Fees

The bride, groom, or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) must be a **Family Level member** or above to have your wedding or bridal photography session held at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It is an exclusive benefit of membership at the Family Level and higher. A Family Level membership is \$150 per year. Visit <http://www.mobot.org/membership> for a complete list of benefits. Purchase in person at the Garden's Membership Desk, [online](#) or by calling (314) 577-5118.

The required Family Level membership **allows up to 10 individuals** to enter the Garden for free; all other individuals entering the Garden **must pay applicable admission rates** for that day. Visit www.mobot.org/visit for admission information.

Photographers and photography studios *cannot* extend their membership benefit to a client, no exceptions. If you are in the wedding party, but are not the bride, groom or his/her parent or guardian, you cannot extend your membership benefit to others for the photo session.

There is a limit of one wedding or bridal photo session per your 12-month membership term. After this member benefit has been used, Family Level members and above hold an additional wedding or bridal photo session at the cost of \$100 each; Visa, MasterCard and cash are accepted at the ticket counter.

The membership must be current as of the date of the session; expired or lapsed memberships are not valid.

Hours and Availability

You must **arrive between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.** to be admitted to shoot wedding or bridal photography. We cannot accommodate any arrivals after 3 p.m. Photo sessions must be completed and wedding/bridal groups departed by 4 p.m., no exceptions. We do not take reservations.

The Missouri Botanical Garden hosts a number of signature events and exhibitions throughout the year. These activity-filled events draw exceptionally large crowds, and for your satisfaction, **we do not permit wedding and bridal photography during these events**: Chinese Culture Days (**third weekend of May, beginning 2013**); Lantern Festival Grand Opening Weekend (**Memorial Day weekend 2012**); Japanese Festival (**Labor Day weekend**); and the Best of Missouri Market (**first weekend of October**). Wedding and bridal photography is not allowed during evening public events, including the Whitaker Music Festival and Lantern Festival evenings; see entry and departure times above.

Check-in and Entry

The Family Level member or above must present their valid Garden membership card, along with a photo I.D., upon arrival. All session participants must be present and enter as a group; we cannot accommodate late or individual arrivals. To avoid congestion in the lobby, please meet your group or photographer outside the Ridgway Visitor Center (main entrance building) prior to entry; please do not congregate in front of the inside ticket counter. **Photographers must sign in** and register the photo session in the Garden's ledger.

Locations

Wedding and bridal photography is permitted only in the **outdoor**, public areas of the Garden. **Wedding and bridal photography is not permitted inside any buildings or conservatories** (including the Climatron[®], Linnean House, Shoenberg Temperate House, Ridgway Visitor Center or Tower Grove House). Photography is not permitted on any of the islands in the Japanese Garden. Please do not block pathways or visitor access to any area of the Garden. Flowerbeds of other plant displays may not be entered or disturbed. Plant labels and other signs may not be changed or removed.

Parking

Free, on-site parking may be available; additional free parking is located two blocks west at the intersection of Shaw and Vandeventer. Vehicles should load and unload passengers in the upper west parking lot, immediately adjacent to the entrance. Vehicles may load and unload senior citizens and guests who require special assistance in front of the Ridgway Visitor Center, but vehicles may not park here or be left unattended. Absolutely no idling of vehicles is permitted on the Garden's campus. Drivers will be asked to turn off their engines or leave the premises.

Restrictions

The Garden is a tobacco-free campus; smoking and tobacco products and devices are not allowed inside the Garden grounds or in the parking lots. Alcoholic beverages and coolers are not permitted. Please review the Garden's [etiquette guidelines](#) in advance.

Transportation

We do not offer a shuttle service or carts for rent. Tram service is available on our regular narrated public tram tour route on a first come, first served basis for \$4 per person during regular [tram operating hours](#).

Advance Scouting

We encourage you to visit the Garden in advance at your leisure to scout locations for your photography session. View our [hours and admission rates](#).

Weddings and Private Events

Wedding ceremonies, receptions or other private events at the Missouri Botanical Garden must be booked in advance through Catering St. Louis, (314) 577-0200 or www.cateringstlouis.com. **Absolutely no wedding ceremonies may be performed at the Garden without advance reservation.** Parties not in compliance will be asked to leave immediately. Please remember that any party who has booked a private event in a particular location of the Garden has exclusive right to that area.

If you are photographing a wedding or reception booked at the Garden, please have the bride or groom contact their Catering St. Louis representative directly for photography guidelines.

Questions

For questions related wedding and bridal photography, call (314) 577-5101. Individuals, groups and photographers not abiding by any portion of this policy will be asked to leave the Garden's campus. The Garden reserves the right to refuse admittance for wedding or bridal photography and/or to change the photo policy without advance notice.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's policies are subject to change.