

Sanctuary on the River

Inspired Living Center

Planning a Ruidoso Winter Wedding *What to Expect*

Despite the colder temperatures, Ruidoso is still a destination wedding hotspot because the winter season has an ambiance quite different than that of the summer months. The white, snow-capped mountains bring forth a romantic atmosphere in a unique way, different than the summer season, and the surrounding frosted trees enhance the natural beauty that is already present.

When planning a Ruidoso wedding outdoors in the winter season, brides and grooms are often unsure of what to expect on their wedding day due to the unpredictability of inclement winter weather that occurs in the Ruidoso area. While a large number of weddings take place in summer, Ruidoso remains a popular destination-wedding venue throughout the year, including the brisk days of winter, and if you come prepared, you can expect your wedding day to proceed as planned, with perhaps a minor twist on occasion. **We are happy to host your wedding day between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. as evening temperatures preclude events after dark.**

The severest of weather in Ruidoso typically occurs November thru February, but that is not to say that heavy snowstorms don't take place other months of the year, including spring. To be sure, you can expect storms at any given time. **Naturally, the safest plan to avoid the winter cold on your special occasion is to plan an indoor wedding in our Conservatory.** However, there is nothing more romantic and serene than having an open-air wedding amidst the frosted trees along the beautiful Rio Ruidoso River.

If you've planned an outdoor informal wedding ceremony in the Pavilion, we suggest your invitations include a reminder to your guests to dress "winter resort warm" and bring a jacket to shield them from wind and low temperatures, this will make the weather conditions bearable in most cases. Umbrellas are a good idea if the snow is heavy and wet.

If weather is so severe that it becomes near impossible to host your celebration outdoors, no need to panic because our Conservatory comfortably seats 70 guests "church style" and can accommodate a casual stand-up reception once the wedding chairs are removed. Our Conservatory can also accommodate 48 guests for a dinner-style wedding, seated at 60 in. round tables with eight white wedding chairs at each table. A plated dinner is encouraged for this room set-up as the space for a buffet is limited if you allow room for your cake table. We also encourage iPod music or a very



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abbreviated DJ set-up because of the limited space. **We will make the call 24 hours prior to your event as to where event will be held.** We appreciate your trust in our professional experience.

The harshest of storms may close roads into Ruidoso on rare occasions, but a majority of the time they remain passable, if prepared. It's recommended to always carry chains in your vehicle in the winter when traveling to Ruidoso. Automobiles and SUV's equipped with four-wheel drive can endure almost any type of unexpected road conditions.

Planning a Ruidoso wedding during the winter season can, at times, present a few obstacles, but the bliss of an outdoor, wintery-white ceremony certainly can outweigh any disadvantages. Being prepared while traveling, adhering to the suggested number of guests and designing a more casual reception insures the most important event of your lives will be a mountain winter fantasy. **Thank you for understanding and accepting the limitations that a winter wedding might impose.**

Sanctuary on the River Representative

Date

Bride and Groom

