

Outline for the Perfect Pampered Bride Show

I did my first Pampered Bride Show and it went so well, that I thought I'd share an outline of the party in case any of you want to try it. My goal was to focus on the bride, not on the products, but I still dropped one-liners for booking and recruiting.

A little background: We expected 12 people, 6 showed. But, despite this, not only did everybody buy for the bride, they also bought for themselves. The bride got EVERYTHING on her wish list without yet touching her host benefits and I got a great show with 2 bookings! Plus, I was out of there (set up to break down) in 2 hours flat!!!

I made ahead the Turkey Cranberry Wreath with an adjustment to create a bridal theme. I did the wreath on the Rectangle stone and made it into two separate rings (using one can of crescent rolls each) and had the rings intertwined in the middle of the stone. I did not bake the rings. I made the Phyllo Nests with Chocolate Mousse (from the new Delightful Desserts Cookbook). I did the nests and the mousse ahead of time, but didn't have the mousse in the nests. I gave the hostess a piece of paper and told her it was her job to write down everything that the bride said. I had a copy of the bride's wish list done ahead of time by the bride.

To open, I got everybody's attention and read the following poem:

One Wedding equals...

Two Crockpots, three toasters, four plastic salad spinners,
Five egg plates, six candle sticks (for quaint romantic dinners),

Seven coffee mugs, eight dish towels, nine crystal serving dishes,
And ten "How To" Cookbooks with handwritten wishes.

And Wedding Day comes & goes (everything turns out just fine),
The honeymoon has ended (yes, it was Divine!).

And thus begins your married life, with all it's many changes,
As you spend your evenings at the mall making gift exchanges!

Or you can choose a Pampered Chef Bridal Show and...

Invite your friends to join us as I show new kitchen products to you
Delicious recipes that are easy and fast, that anyone can do.

No need for them to bring a gift, just come and join the fun,
You'll have a kitchen full of tools, before the evening's done.

Skip the traffic and return lines and unnecessary stress,
And choose to start your kitchen with the tools that are the best.

Your friends and family will say "Hey, this is really neat!"
Enjoying food and fun and sharing tips while shopping from their seat!

Welcome to ““Suzy”’s” Pampered Bride Show!!!

I gave the bride her “Pampered Bride” apron and told everybody that they should sign it before leaving so that she would always remember who was at her shower. I gave the hostess a Season’s Best for helping to get the party organized. I had everybody introduce themselves and say how they knew the bride or to share a personal story about her.

Then, I explained briefly how the show would work. I said, “My name is Regina and I love my Pampered Chef Job. I joined because I wanted a nice income with the flexibility to be able to stay home with my kids. I stuck with it because it gave me that and so much more: great friends, free vacations, recognition, not to mention all these great tools (indicating my table behind me.) But today, our focus is not on the tools, but on “Suzy”. I have a list of things that “Suzy” would love as a gift. I’m her own personal gift registry! When you place your orders after the demonstration, you may also get something for “Suzy” off of her wish list. Or you can go in with somebody else here, or, by booking a show of your own, you’re donating about \$5.00 in products to her.”

Then, I presented the Turkey Cranberry Rings, explaining that the rings represented the union of marriage and I talked about stoneware—mostly asking them what they knew about it. I went to put the Rings into the oven, but before leaving to go to the kitchen, I pointed out a recruiting flyer in their folders.

When I returned, I gave everybody in the room the 1950’s instructions (below—I had them cut into strips of paper so that they each only had the couple that I would ask them to read) except for the host. I gave the bride #10. Then, I asked them to read them, in order...”Who has #1?” Etc. All the way through the instructions. After each instruction, I would read the “Version for Today’s woman.” This was hilarious and had so many people interjecting that we were all in stitches before it was over.

Instructions for women on how to be a good wife from a 1950’s school textbook used in home economics classes:

1. Have dinner ready: Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal - on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him, and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospects of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.
2. Prepare yourself: Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your makeup, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.

3. Clear away the clutter: Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift, too.

4. Prepare the children: Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces if they are small, comb their hair, and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.

5. Minimize the noise: At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of washer, dryer, dishwasher or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet. Be happy to see him. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.

6. Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.

7. Make him comfortable: Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and off to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.

8. Listen to him: You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

9. Make the evening his: Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment; instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to be home and relax.

10. The goal: Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can relax.

Today's Version:

1. Have dinner ready: Make reservations ahead of time. If your day becomes too hectic just leave him a voice mail message regarding where you'd like to eat and at what time. This lets him know that your day has been crappy and gives him an opportunity to change your mood.

2. Prepare yourself: A quick stop at the "LAN COME" counter on your way home will do wonders for your outlook and will keep you from becoming irritated every time he opens his mouth. (Don't forget to use his credit card!)

3. Clear away the clutter: Call the housekeeper and tell her that any miscellaneous items left on the floor by the children can be placed in the Goodwill box in the garage.

4. Prepare the children: Send the children to their rooms to watch television or play Nintendo.
5. Minimize the noise: If you happen to be home when he arrives, be in the bathroom with the door locked.
6. Some DON'TS: Don't greet him with problems and complaints. Let him speak first, and then your complaints will get more attention and remain fresh in his mind throughout dinner. Don't complain if he's late for dinner; simply remind him that the leftovers are in the refrigerator and you left the dishes for him to do.
7. Make him comfortable: Tell him where he can find a blanket if he's cold. This will really show you care.
8. Listen to him: But don't ever let him get the last word.
9. Make the evening his: Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment; go with a friend or go shopping (and, of course, use his credit card).
10. The Goal: Try to keep things amicable without reminding him that he only thinks the world revolves around him.

Then, I pulled out my second recipe, the Phyllo Nests were already made and in the Stoneware Muffin Pan. I had the mousse in the Chillzanne Bowl and I filled the Easy Accent Decorator with the mousse. While I filled the nests with mousse, we went around the room and had the guests share Pampered Chef Tools' Quick Tips. Then, I pulled out my Deluxe Cheese Grater, and explained that I'd be grating walnuts over half of the nests. I did this. It took just moments to do. Then, I pulled out my mini-lunch box that I take to shows, filled with hugs & kisses (again, wanted to go love theme). I said, well, our Deluxe Cheese Grater is our "Goodie Gadget" for the day! You tell me a feature of or use for this tool and you can earn goodies! I made sure I gave everybody at least one chocolate.

Then, I said, "Now, you may have noticed that I didn't give our hostess any 1950's marital instructions to read. So, now, I'm going to put her on the spot. She's going to give "Suzy" all the unsolicited advice on marriage she could ever possibly want by playing Dr. Ruth. Now, Dr. Ruth (to the hostess), your job is to complete the sentences I begin."

Regarding the In-Laws, never...

In shopping, always...

Regarding bedtime habits, never...

When fighting, always...
In spending money, never...
Regarding old boyfriends, always...
With laundry, never...
When cleaning, always...

Then, I said, "I'll take this last one." In Cooking, always spend more time around the table than you do in the kitchen, and ladies, that is exactly what these tools are all about. Then I took the Turkey Cranberry Rings out of the oven and pointed out my bookings flyer in the folders.

When I returned, I said, we're just about done here, but let's see a couple Pampered Chef favorites that I usually get to use at my shows, but haven't had a chance to today. Then, I pulled out these "Product Cards" that I have. I use them at many shows. I have eight of them, all with pictures of certain tools, and a cute or silly quote on the top. They are on colored tagboard postcards. I usually ask the guests something about themselves to give them out, but for the bridal shower I asked the questions about their "spouse or significant other".

"Who has a spouse or significant other who is a red-white and blue blooded patriot?"
"You get my 'As American As Apple Pie' Card." (Apple Peeler/Corer/Slicer)

"Who has a spouse or significant other who, if even just a little bit, might sometimes get on your nerves?" "You get my 'Stress Release' Card." (Food Chopper)

"Who has a spouse or significant other who would pull the yawn trick to put his arm around you at the movies?" "You get my 'Fresh and User-Friendly' Card." (Ultimate Slice & Grate)

One at a time, they demonstrated the Apple Peeler/Corer/Slicer on one apple, the Food Chopper on a handful of peanuts and the Ultimate Slice & Grate on a pear (already cored and peeled). I put all of these things into my Classic Batter Bowl. I said, well my husband is a real "Mover & A Shaker" (while I tossed in some cinnamon and sugar from my Flour/Sugar Shaker), but he's still my "Main Squeeze" (while I used the baster to put in some caramel ice cream topping). Then, I replaced the lid and shook up the mix—a great, cheap snack which shows a ton of tools to add to any show!!!

I said, I just want to show you a couple more things and then we can eat. I showed and talked about the carafe, which was filled with Good Company Coffee. I also showed and talked about the Celebration Plate and said I would allow our bride to eat off of it today.

I reminded everybody how to order for themselves and for the bride and told them not to forget to sign the apron. Then, I took the list that the hostess had been keeping of everything that the bride had been saying throughout the demonstration. I mentioned what my door prize was and went over the door prize slips. I said, while you fill these

out, our hostess has been keeping track of “Suzy”’s quotes this whole time. Legend has it that these same words were spoken on the wedding night. Then, I read back the quotes that were written (this was hilarious) and gave out the door prize.

I got the bride’s meal for her before I began taking orders.

When taking orders, I kept the “gift order” on a separate order form. On the actual wish-list, I had guests write their name next to the thing(s) that they were getting for the bride.

When home, I made out the gift record and put it in a plastic sleeve. I sent it to the bride along with the following letter:

“Suzy”,

I feel truly honored to have been able to be a part of your bridal shower. The women I met are a wonderful group of people and priceless friends. Together, they pampered you with everything you had on your wish list.

I am sure you have many beautiful years ahead with your new husband, “John”. If you find half the happiness in marriage as I have, you will be joyous for all of your days ahead, feeling complete and as if a space in your heart, that you never knew was empty, has been filled.

When you share that dying tradition of family mealtimes with “John”, you will always remember the friends that gave you so much more than a product to fill your kitchen cabinets. They gave you the tools to quality time spent with the love of your life.

I wish you the very best in all that lies ahead. May you have health, prosperity, good friends, and—always—love, in your new life.

*Sincerely,
Regina Laberge*

I know of other ways to handle the bridal showers, other games and order-taking methods, but I know I’ll never do it differently than this again! It worked beautifully. And, although most of the actual cooking work was done, I showed and spoke about hundreds of dollars worth of Pampered Chef tools. Good luck to all of you on your own bridal showers!!!

