

## Meaningful Ways to Ask a Friend to Stand for You

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When planning your wedding, you'll be faced with many important decisions. Choosing your attendants is one of them. And once you've decided whom you want to stand for you, why not ask them in a special way? It's a great opportunity to make them feel like an essential part of your day – right from the start!

There are many creative and special ways to ask your attendants. It's always nice to do it in person but due to geographic reasons you may not have that luxury. One word of advice is that if you know that you won't see the person for a matter of months -- don't wait to ask her or him in person. My friend made this mistake. She decided that she wanted an old friend to be one of her bridesmaids. However, because this friend lived far away she decided to wait to ask her in person. Well, one day another member of the wedding party ran into this friend and told her that she was in the wedding. Unfortunately it spoiled the surprise. So, asking over the phone is better than having them find out by accident, or too far down the line when they've made other plans.

Whether or not you're able to ask your attendant in person, here are some unique suggestions on how to do so:

- Choose a flower that you plan on having your attendants carry. Then get a card and write something such as: "This flower is a symbol of the bouquet that I'd like you to carry as my attendant when I marry (name) on (date). If you're able to surprise your attendant with this privately it makes it really special. Keep in mind that dried flower arrangements are also a good option since your attendant can use it as a keepsake. This suggestion may be better suited for female attendants but could also be done for men using the flower on their boutonnieres.
- Depending on how long you've known your friend, create a "history book" of your friendship. Purchase a hard covered book from the drugstore and entitle it with your names on the cover. Then on each page put pictures, special quotes and events that you've shared in together on each page. End it with the date of your wedding and the question "Will you be my wedding attendant on (date)?" This also gives them the option to add things to the book in the future – like pictures from your wedding!
- If you know the type of jewelry that you'd like your attendants to wear at the wedding then purchase it for them in advance. You can then present it to them with a card saying: "I'd be honored if you would wear this piece of jewelry when you stand as my attendant on (date). For men, this could be done giving cufflinks with their initials on them.
- Send flowers, balloons, a teddy bear gram, singing telegram or candy gram with a card asking them to be part of your special day.
- Send a "mystery gift" to your attendant. It could be a piece of tulle, a pressed flower, or a small bell. Put a note in to have them call you once they receive it.

When they call, ask them to be in your wedding.

- If all your attendants live in the same area then plan a special outing for the entire group. Take them out to lunch, order drinks and propose a toast to your attendants. Their mouths will drop once they realize what you mean! Or, take them all shopping and show up at a local bridal shop.

These are just a few creative suggestions to make your attendants feel like a special part of your day. A little personalization means a lot when asking your attendants. They'll feel like important parts of your wedding experience when you ask them in style!