

# Eco-Friendly

# Weddings

## *Invitations*

Show your commitment to Earth stewardship right from the start with Eco-friendly wedding invitations.

There are countless papers available made from recycled paper or tree-free materials. Request soy based ink, too. Or try your hand at making your own home made paper imbedded with flower seeds.

The invitation can then be planted later to create a mini garden, a living symbol of your growing love.

# Favors

Choosing Eco-friendly favors means your guests will remember more than just your wedding day, but also your love of the Earth. Just about anything reusable will do, but here are a few great suggestions:

- 🌱 Small soy candles (unlit, of course)
- 🌱 Flower or tree seeds wrapped in pretty recycled paper and tied with hemp string.
- 🌱 Any small potted flower or plant. These can double as table centerpieces!
- 🌱 Small trees to be planted later. You can purchase great native trees or plants at the Tacoma Nature Center or try [www.arboday.org](http://www.arboday.org).
- 🌱 Small bags of birds seed with a picture of a feathered friend that might come to visit.
- 🌱 Napkins that double as bandanas for guests to use on their next hiking trip exploring nature!

# Centerpieces & Place Settings

Look around you~ natural beauty is everywhere. Bring some of that natural beauty to your guests' tables by making centerpieces using objects found in nature. Be sure to only take items that are plentiful and from different areas in order to minimize your impact on an area. Try this:

- 🌿 Interesting sticks, mosses, lichens or stones around a soy pillar candle.
- 🌿 Native flowers in pots with beautiful fabrics and feathers
- 🌿 In season flowers in recycled vases
- 🌿 Pretty sticks or pine cones can be easily made in to napkin rings
- 🌿 Painted river rocks used as place cards can either be sent home as a decorative paperweight, or keep them to decorate your garden as a reminder of those who attended your wedding.
- 🌿 Improvise and don't be afraid to experiment until you find something that looks beautiful to YOU.

# Attire

Even my clothes can be Eco-friendly? You bet!

There are many options.

🌍 Reusing a family member's wedding gown can be a beautiful option when it is tailored to fit you. This is not only a great family tradition but can be a way to find something truly unique. Or take a gown from a second hand store and use the parts you like, add some of your own touches and you have a custom vintage creation.

🌍 Purchase a dress made from Eco-friendly fabrics such as hemp, silk or Tencel. You can even purchase these fabrics and have your dress made for you.

🌍 Groom clothing can be found in a variety of Eco-friendly fabrics as well. Check online.

🌍 The internet can be a great resource. One site to check is [www.organicweddings.com](http://www.organicweddings.com).

# Flowers

Nothing says weddings like flowers. The trick here is to find blooms with little negative impact.

🌍 Search locally for growers and try to stick to

🌍 varieties that are in season. This will reduce the need for shipping and trucking.

🌍 Also ask growers about their use of pesticides.

This is another advantage of looking locally – you can actually speak to the growers to get the facts.

🌍 Try using potted flowers that can then be planted again.

🌍 Grow your own flowers for your bouquet or décor. That way you know how they are grown and it can be a great way to help the time pass until your big day!

# Activities at the Reception

Your guests are here to help you celebrate. Let them join you in celebrating the Earth, too!

- 🌍 Go unplugged. Try to find music that doesn't require electricity, such as piano or harp.
- 🌍 Invite guests to bring instruments and drums and create your own music! All you need is some inspiration and enthusiasm. And talk about memorable...
- 🌍 Go for a walk. Invite your guests on a walk around the grounds, or have a birder friend provide guided walks. Take advantage of the unique setting of the Tacoma Nature Center to share your love of the outdoors.
- 🌍 Sunsets, sunrises or stars are great for gazing at, depending on when your reception is to be held. Invite your guests to experience it!