

# PROM

Guide





# Arriving in Style

One of the best picture opportunities during prom night is your arrival for the big event. Choosing an outlandish mode of transportation or taking the wheel of a magnificent machine will create a moment to remember.

The ride to prom can also create significant memories shared with your closest friends. Consider sharing the costs between friends to arrive together in a multi-passenger vehicle. If you're attending prom on a budget, this can help save money to put toward other fun events.

Teenagers will likely need assistance from their parents or guardians to help in the case of renting a vehicle. Here are some things to consider when making a splash upon arrival.

## **PARTY BUS**

Before renting a party bus for prom, you should find out how many friends will be joining you. Often these vehicles are offered in various sizes, so you should have a solid headcount in mind to get the best value.

You should also only rent from a reputable service with proper licensing that performs extensive background checks on their drivers.

Don't be afraid to ask a com-

pany about their qualifications before hiring them to transport you and your friends.

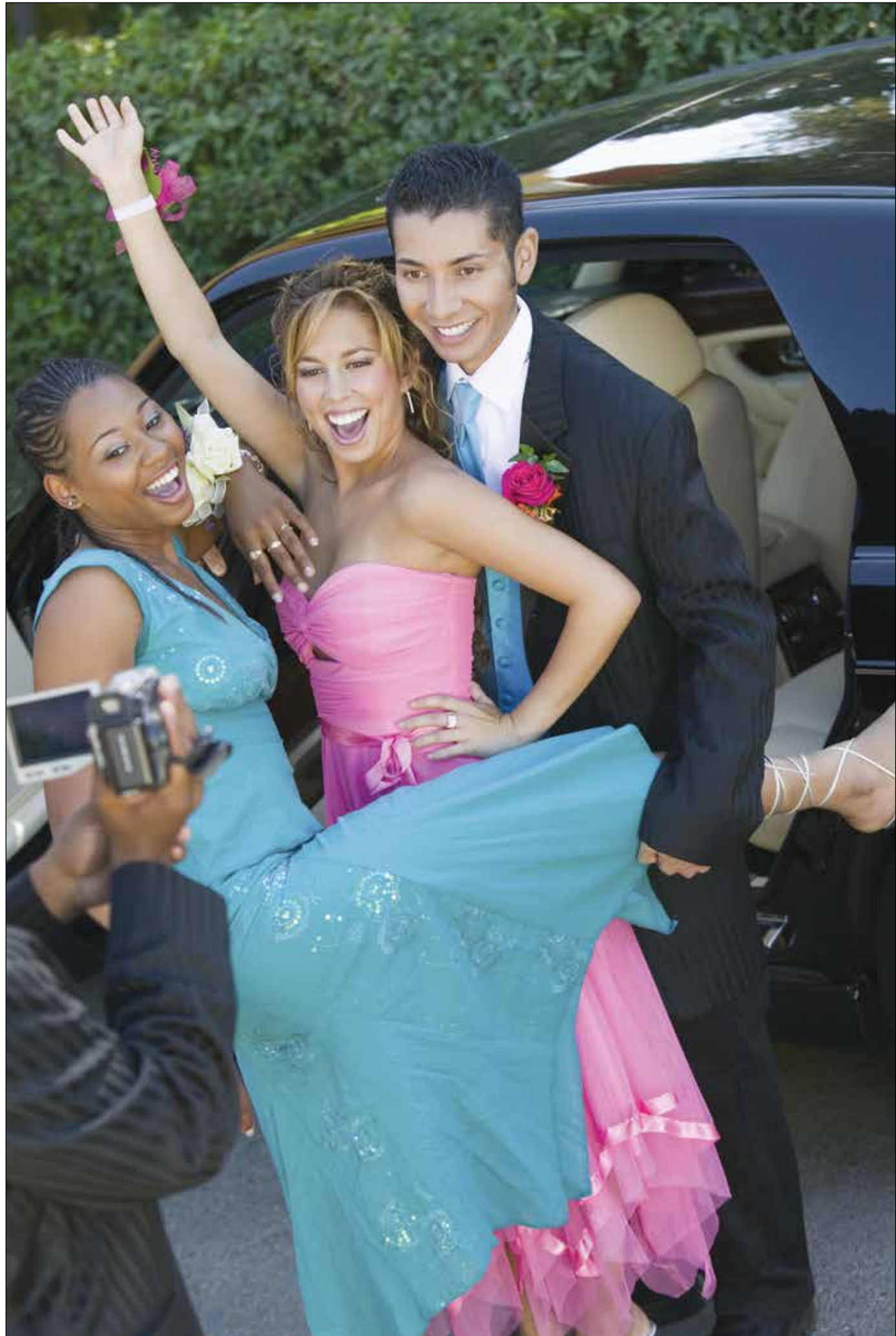
## **LIMOUSINE**

Limo rides are a staple in proms portrayed in Hollywood movies and in real life. Renting an extended car can give you a perspective of a luxury lifestyle while traveling to your promenade and its events.

While most rental services display their vehicles online, it's a good idea to visit the lot to see the limo in person. Ensure it is up to standards in terms of condition, available amenities and your impression of the company.

## **FAVORITE CAR**

Sometimes, the best mode of transportation is your personal vehicle, or a favorite car owned by family or friends. If you decide to drive yourself to prom, hire a local detail shop to clean the ride both inside and out. The memories you create inside will last for as long as you own the vehicle.





# Choose a Location for Photos

Prom night is a moment you will remember for the rest of your life. Preserve the emotions and excitement of the big day by capturing it in beautiful photographs.

Choosing a fantastic backdrop can be a decision made between yourself and a professional photographer.

When hiring an expert, make sure to book early as their schedules are generally busy during prom season.

If you're considering a few different photographers, do research to see which style is the best fit. Look for online reviews and portfolios, or ask for references from previous clients.

Once you have chosen a professional, here are some locations to consider.

## STAIRCASE

Search your location for historic staircases throughout the area. Look for historic buildings that offer views of a jaw-dropping city skyline, beautiful ocean and waterfronts or vast country land.

There may even be interior staircases that can make a gorgeous backdrop to your prom pictures. Consider elegant hotels, public museums or fancy restaurants. Of course, you should make the property



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owner aware of your intentions to avoid trespassing.

With their permission, strategize a time where the facility is generally less active to ensure the photo shoot is not intruding on the other visitors.

## FIELD OF FLOWERS

The tradition of prom is closely connected with flow-

ers, both in terms of bouquets and corsages. Keep the theme by visiting a local garden or arboretum to use their beautiful blooms as a backdrop for photos.

If you haven't chosen a dress yet, consider finding one with a shade that blends with common flowering plants in your area. The attention to detail

can create an amazing shot of yourself and your date among a color-coordinated background.

## FUN WITH A TRAMPOLINE

With the right safety standards in mind, bouncing on a trampoline in your prom gear will create exciting and fun photos that showcase your

personality. If you choose this setting, make sure you have time to adjust your hair and makeup before the big event.

When using a trampoline, try to find an angle that creates an attractive background. A view of leafy trees, a cloudy sky or city skyline are all great ideas to incorporate into the pictures.



# 2020 Prom Dress Trends

A successful prom season requires ample planning for numerous factors. Decisions like a mode of transportation, finding a date and creating a timeline for fun and dining likely weigh heavily on your mind.

While creating a general idea around these events is good practice, results may vary due to scheduling changes.

One concrete decision you can make on your pre-prom checklist is finding the perfect dress. Check out these trending dress styles for 2020.

## JUMPSUIT

Take a vintage approach when finding a prom dress by choosing a style that was popular in the past. Once a fashion statement in the 70s, the jumpsuit is coming back for 2020. A classy outfit can sparkle with the glitz and glam of a dress but appeal to more of a tailored, fitted look.

Make a fashion-forward statement by picking a beautiful jumpsuit, but make sure it's comfortable, as prom night will be an action-packed night of socializing and dancing.

## BALL GOWN

For a full princess effect, dressing in a classic ball gown is a safe option. Fashion experts Jovani say 2020 dresses will receive a modern makeover

with floral accents, sheer elements and lace-up backs.

This type of outfit pairs well with loose hair, glamorous earrings and a pair of heels.

## METALLIC

A metallic prom dress boasts glamour. Popular color schemes for the year include gold, silver and rose gold. The amazing light-reflecting dresses look magnificent during well-lit photo shoots and under the lights at a prom event.

If you want to make more of a bold statement, consider a metallic gown or dress that features glitter dust. You're sure to shine and stand out during the entire evening.

## OVERSKIRT

An overskirt is an accessory that adds extra style to an already beautiful dress. Besides adding additional flair, this piece is typically detachable, allowing you to make different fashion statements throughout the event. When attached, expect to make a bold and elegant entrance.



# Prom Planning

Members of the prom committee are required to make difficult decisions that appeal to the entire student body that will attend the event. When creating plans, team involvement and contributions are imperative.

When you're a member of this vital school club, you will work closely with school leaders. They will generally be the group that approves the plans made by a committee regarding locations, themes and event schedules. Pay attention to their ideas and suggestions to learn beneficial lessons about leadership.

## CHOOSING A THEME AND SONG

Most proms are celebrated with a specific theme in mind. Successful themes should be relatable to most of your student body.

You can create a mood to commemorate an achievement made by the school or be inspired by current pop culture, like popular movies or songs. With your committee, think of a few viable options and allow the school to vote.

You should consider the available budget approved by finance officials and think of



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ways to stretch each dollar to decorate for the event.

## WELCOMING INVITATIONS

The date of your prom will be highly talked about throughout campus. Create a welcoming invitation to serve as a keepsake for attendees. Include as many details as possible so students can fondly remember the event in

the future.

Information like the time, date and location should be clearly noted. Don't forget to incorporate ideas from your theme to display on each invitation.

## DJ OR BAND

Another important aspect of the event is choosing your prom song. To determine the tune to represent your prom-

enade, try to take a vote amongst the student body. Choose a few different songs and request that peers turn in a ballot with their pick and a write-in section for songs you may have forgotten.

With a tune in mind and a general list of the type of music that should be featured, next you should consider if a band or a DJ is the better option. This decision

will likely depend on your budget and local talent availability.

## PLANNING THE MENU

Will your prom feature a tasty buffet or are catered-in portions more of your campus' style? Whichever path you decide, make sure the menu features a variety of different options, including vegetarian and vegan options.



# First Prom Tips

If you will be attending your first prom in 2020, it's common to have butterflies as you're unsure of what to expect.

It can be beneficial to calm your nerves by networking with upperclassmen at your school who are familiar with the event.

Another way to ease the stress of attending your first prom is to prepare with planning and to understand your etiquette responsibilities. Check out these tips to extinguish your hesitations about the dance and create an unforgettable experience.

## **DRESS APPROPRIATELY**

Prom night should be an event to remember for fun times in a social setting. Follow guidelines set by campus officials regarding prom dress etiquette.

For men, a good practice is to rent your tuxedo from a reputable source. Make sure it's an excellent fit to impress your date and look great in prom photos.

## **FINANCIAL COORDINATION**

If you're attending prom with a group of friends, sorting out the financial responsibilities of everyone is imperative. Make sure each member knows exactly what

is due for transportation, dining and other expenses.

Don't let drama from someone trying to skip their share of the bill ruin the entire evening.

## **CELLPHONE ETIQUETTE**

You will likely find yourself on your smartphone snapping photos or checking in on family and friends. However, don't allow the gadget to overtake attention from your date.

Try to keep it stashed away in a purse or bag to avoid the temptation to check social media or text messages. Instead, be present in your surroundings and enjoy the presence of your peers.

## **SAYING GOODBYE**

Once the event is finished, everyone must leave on time and in a safe manner. Don't forget to thank the officials and committee who made the prom possible and be aware of the curfews of your date and other friends.

By following proper prom etiquette, you can be the upperclassman who address questions from first-timers next year.





# Pre-Prom Dance Lessons

While no one at prom will expect you to perform your take on the famous scene in *Dirty Dancing*, learning the basics before the event can prepare you for a dance with your special someone.

Whether you're an amateur dancer or aficionado searching for new moves, taking dance lessons before prom can help you impress.

When working with an expert, inform them of the dance styles you will be performing. Asking for help with slow dancing or even upbeat party anthems can fill your prom playbook with impressive moves.

Here are some things to consider when seeking assistance from a dance instructor.

## FINDING THE RIGHT EXPERT

Ensuring you're compatible with a potential dance instructor's teaching method is crucial when learning. You can find out about their techniques by reaching out to previous clients or reading reviews. Of course, the best way is to witness their methods in person.

Sign up for a one-time class with a few different teachers to find the best one for you.



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Be honest with yourself regarding your expectations on factors like:

- How involved they are with their students.
- Their level of expertise when answering questions.
- How they treat dancers who may need extra attention to learn.

Once you're confident that an instructor can propel you

to success, ask them if there are opportunities for personal classes where you get one-on-one instruction.

## PRACTICE DIFFERENT STYLES

During prom, you will find yourself dancing to different tempos, so being well-versed in varying dance moves can help you have fun after each

song change. Ask your instructor to show you the ropes in both slow dances and upbeat rhythms.

If possible, try to follow their steps while wearing the same shoes or a similar pair to get used to how your feet feel and adjust if they become too uncomfortable.

Before long, you should pick up on where to keep

your hands and knowledge of different steps for a variety of genres. Don't become discouraged if you don't understand the lessons right away, as dance can take years of practice to become a master.

However, lessons can provide you with a great start to overcoming your fears regarding dancing in front of groups at prom.

# Prom Fundraising Efforts

Planning a prom can be an expensive affair. Sometimes, the school's budget needs extra funds to be able to pull off an event you will remember. Students can band together to raise funds.

Before you begin raising money, appoint a prom committee member or a school official as treasurer who oversees the budget. They should maintain a ledger of funds going in and record a detailed report of how it is or will potentially be spent. Not only will this benefit the event for this year's students, but financial journals can be shared and direct underclassmen on their journey in the future.

Here are some practical ways to acquire funds for the promenade budget.

## **SCHOOL-WIDE GARAGE SALE**

Do you have useful items sitting around your family home that are going to waste? Consider bringing up the option of an on-site garage sale with your school officials. Encourage everyone who is eligible to attend the upcoming prom to participate and donate a portion of the proceeds to the fund.

Make the event known by posting ads on social media or



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hanging fliers in high-traffic areas like public parks or grocery stores. Be sure to let people know that the sale is meant to raise money for the fund to entice the community to help.

## **ASK FOR HELP FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

Another beneficial avenue

is to talk to locally owned restaurants in the area. Ask them to sponsor a school-wide dining adventure where a commission for each plate is donated to the prom fund.

You can also ask if they have a punch-card promotion where customers can score great deals by buying a

card from a student. If they don't have such an agreement in place, it may inspire them to begin one or even start a new creative charity drive strategy.

## **CAR WASH**

Host a donation-based car wash on school property and

invite parents and older students to join in on the fun. Consider making it a welcoming event by grilling food and offering drinks in the name of fundraising.

Students can learn a valuable lesson about working hard for something they desire.