

Getting Hitched in the Graveyard **Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers Of Course)**

1. What's the cemetery like?

You probably should visit if this is one of your questions. This is a legitimate old western mining camp cemetery, dating back to the Comstock Lode gold and silver discovery in the mid 19th century. It does not look like a bad western movie set, with Styrofoam grave markers. This is the real thing in all its decay and glory. So please, set your expectations accordingly, and if you are looking for a genteel, citified graveyard- this is not the place for you.

2. How far ahead do I have to book?

We book weddings about six months in advance, but there are times during the day that are less popular so even last minute requests can be accommodated. For both last minute and advance bookings, send us an email to check times that are available for your preferred date.

Weddings must occur during daylight hours, from 6am-8pm during the summer. Halloween wedding requests must be made well in advance and sometimes are denied due to resident concerns (the living neighbors, not the cemetery dwellers!).

3. Why do I have to obtain a Special Use Permit?

The cemetery is owned by, or co-managed by, the Comstock Cemetery Foundation. A 150 year old cemetery is a fragile eco system, which has, over the years, been damaged and looted by unsupervised visitors. The CCF volunteers have to manage the process for you and handle questions and inquiries about your activities in the cemetery.

The local police force will remove anyone conducting unauthorized events in the cemetery. We fax the permit in advance to the local police so citizens know the event is authorized.

4. Is my fee tax deductible?

Yes. All wedding permit funds go directly to the protection of the cemeteries. CCF is a non-profit charity and as such, your permit fee is tax deductible.

5. Is there a courthouse in Virginia City?

Yes. It is located on B Street and you may phone and check hours and services at 775-847-0962. Website: <http://www.storeycounty.org>.

We are not in the wedding arrangement business, so it best for you to contact them on your own to inquiry about licenses.

6. Is there someone in the town to marry us?

In the event that you do not have your own person to officiate at the wedding, you may wish to contact Reverend James, who lives on the Comstock and has performed many weddings in the cemeteries. People seemed pleased with him but we offer no guarantees. He can be contacted by email: trubel777@yahoo.net or by phone: 775-245-0472.

7. Will my wedding party be the only one in the cemeteries at the time?

You will not have any other wedding parties in the cemeteries during your scheduled wedding time. Your permit covers two hours of time without another wedding conflicting with your time slot.

Please note however, that we do not close the grounds to residents or tourists during a wedding (unless there happens to be a construction project in the cemetery.)

8. Can I pick any location in the property to hold the ceremony?

Yes you may. Our volunteers can recommend some popular locations. We'd be happy to respond to emails asking for some suggestions. Your permit allows you to select any location within the 30 acres for your ceremony.

9. Are wedding party cars allowed in the cemetery property? Or I have a handicapped person or one that struggles to walk, what can I do?

No vehicles are allowed in the cemeteries; if you have people in your wedding party that have trouble walking, or because of shoes and dresses walking is difficult, you will need to pay for a CCF vehicle/gate attendant.

The cost is \$75 for two hours and she/he will escort the vehicles (maximum of three allowed) and establish parking near the site you have selected. When you submit your permit and payment, we will provide you with a name and number for the attendant. They accept cash only.

10. Can I pay with a credit card?

Sorry, but we are unable to accommodate credit cards. We are a small nonprofit and don't have the ability to accept a charge card. We take cash and checks (but checks must be cleared through our bank prior to the ceremony).

11. What is the best way to get a hold of someone to talk with?

The CCF a volunteer organization, so email is the best way to get a quick response. If you have tried this, read all the Q and As, and still have a question which demands a fast response, you may try calling 775-847-0281. This office can take a message for us, but they aren't able to answer any questions.

We have never had any complaints about our response time on emails. (not yet, anyway)

12. Where can I hold my reception?

We aren't wedding planners. In fact most of our volunteers have pretty bad taste. We would be nervous to recommend a location. But, you can contact our Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority (VCCTA) for recommendations or check out their website (they have very good taste). Contact: 775-847-7500. Website: <http://www.virginiacity-nv.org/vccta.aspx>.

13. Can I use candles or fires? What about photographs and flowers?

Best way to get thrown out of the cemetery is to light anything. No. Not allowed. Don't smoke within the grounds either, please.

Yes, you can definitely have flowers and photos. If you need help arranging these, we would suggest calling the VCCTA. Contact: 775-847-7500. Website: <http://www.virginiacity-nv.org/vccta.aspx>.

14. How to I complete the Special Use Permit process?

If the date, times are not available the volunteer staff will provide you with an alternative.

1. Send us an email with your preferred date and time and approximate number of people. If available, you will be given a "reservation number."

2. Download the Permit, using the reservation number, and complete the form. Send it to us, with payment to the address provided on the Special Use Permit.

If "Till death do us start" is to be part of your wedding vows, then the cemetery is the place for you and your wedding party.