

Buck & Doe Services

We at Sensational Sounds have been a part of literally hundreds of Buck & doe's in the ten years of operation. The main objective of course is raise as much money as possible for the soon to be Bride & Groom. In this information package you will find some helpful tips as well as some great money making game idea's that we have seen in past Buck & Doe's work!

Tips

Getting Started:

Start with a plan! Sounds easy enough. Create a budget outline much like you would for a wedding. Project your ticket sales, then assume up to 70% will show. People will buy tickets just to help out the couple. From the guests that will show, average 4 drinks per person. Shop around for a price on hall, DJ and food. Always keep in mind 'you get what you pay for'. A cheap DJ is not worth your while if no one has a good time at the event and leaves early. The biggest question is WHEN? How close (or how far away) from the wedding date should it be held? Should we have it on Friday or Saturday evening? Generally a Buck & Doe is held three to one month prior to wedding. As for the day of the week, Fridays are generally cheaper when it comes to booking a DJ as well as the hall, but be sure not to lower your attendance by using Friday. The availability of the hall and the DJ Service you want have to play a factor too.

Ok, now where are you going to have the party? There are a lot of questions you want to ask the hall. First check to see if you have to use their bartenders and alcohol or if you can bring in your own. You can make more money if you can bring in your own booze but it may be on you to find bartenders that are 'smart serve' certified. Check if you are allowed gambling and 50-50 draws. Also ask if you can have jello shooters and the ever popular pie in the face. Some halls do not permit these activities! Some halls will wave the cost of the rental if you purchase food & drink through them, check!! Look into how many people the hall holds and compare with your projected ticket sales.

Helpers:

Get as many people involved as possible, especially when it comes to ticket sellers. The best ticket sellers are those who work in the public. Someone that knows a lot of people and is not shy to ask them. A waitress or waiter is a good example. You will also need people to set up and decorate the hall, run the front door, gaming tables, draws for 50-50 and raffle prizes, and prepare food.

The Price:

The price of the stag & doe tickets vary from \$10 per person, \$15 per couple up to \$20 per person. The price should reflect the going rate in your area and the prizes or 'grand prize' you are giving away. Also remember if you want 200 people to show, you are going to have to sell up to 300 tickets. Liquor and beer tickets are generally \$3-\$4 a drink or 3 for \$10 or 7 for \$20. Jello shooters are a great money maker and are usually a dollar or two each. Another way to make an extra buck and to have some fun is to sell fish insurance at the door. If a person without the insurance wins a prize, they must eat (or swallow) a live gold fish in order to claim the prize!

The Prizes:

The prizes are what entice people into coming to the party and if drawn properly, will keep them there longer. We find the best time to do the majority of your door prizes is shortly after the late night buffet is served. This way everyone is sitting down having a bite to eat, the lights are generally turned up and the dance floor is not as busy. Hold the main prize after midnight. DVD players are a popular item, also the wheelbarrow of booze draws large crowds and sells a lot of tickets. Have the prizes displayed near the door for all your guests to see as they enter

Game Ideas:

At the Door:

Joker's Wild - Take a deck of cards (or two if you are expecting a large crowd) and tape them face down hiding the jokers as well. The purchaser then writes his/her name on the backside to the card. The winner is the person who's name appears on the back of the Joker.

Scratch Card Board - Tape 10 popular scratch cards on a large piece of construction paper. Sell tickets to win the entire board.

Through the night:

50-50 and other draws - Using numbered tickets, helpers sell tickets to win cash or prizes. Generally pricing is one ticket for \$1, three tickets for \$2 or an arms length for \$5.

Crown & Anchor, Over & Under - Very popular and generally good money makers. Bets range from 25cents to a maximum of two dollars. For extra fun, mark off two spots on the wheel, one saying Bride and the other Groom. If these spaces are hit, all bets go to the couple.

Horse Races - Used with the crown & anchor wheel. Generally a five dollar or ten dollar buy in. Five horses, one to represent each symbol. Horses are moved number a spaces matching the space hit. Winner wins half the purse for that race. Have some fun with it. Name the horses and have your DJ announce race times, how many jockeys needed for the race to begin and the winning horse!

Black Jack or 21 - This game is a little more risky at making money. Define all the rules on a poster and have all ties go to the dealer to insure the house is on the couples side.

Loonie and/or Toonie toss - Place a bottle or alcohol on the floor a mark a line a good twenty feet away. The DJ will have people throw toonies or loonies at the bottle and the closest wins. For a challenge, make it the closest without hitting the bottle. Keep it going as long as possible. This can make a lot of moolaa.

Some other ideas:

Pay to Sing (karaoke required), Gold fish races, pie in the face auction, putting games