



Frequently Asked Questions

What does the rental fee include?

All indoor rentals include the venue, tables and chairs for indoors, A/V, podium and microphone if needed, and a catering kitchen. See the Terms & Conditions document for additional inclusions and more information.

What time can I come in to decorate my venue?

Your set-up time is determined by your contracted time on your rental agreement. Rentals are generally for 6 to 12 hours to include time for set-up, the event, and break-down.

When must our event end?

All events must end by 11:00 p.m. and venues must be vacated by 12:00 a.m., midnight. Rentals that last longer than the contracted time will be billed \$500 for any portion of an hour and any additional hours for Security.

What if I need more time for my event?

Extra hours may be purchased; the rate is dependent on the venue. *You may not enter the venue before the start time as stated on the rental agreement. An Event Lead must be on duty before you can take possession of a venue.* Any violation of these terms will result in forfeiture of the damage deposit.

What does the Event Lead do?

The Event Lead oversees all aspects of the event to assure compliance with the rental agreement. They are there to make sure everything in the venue(s) works as you would expect: heat/air, A/V, lighting, etc. They will drive the shuttle when it is included in your rental. The Event Lead is your day-of point-of-contact for any issues related to the venue. One or more Event Leads will be assigned to your event.

Can the shuttle be used to bring my guests from the hotel?

No. Our shuttle is a golf cart and is for use on Garden property only. The shuttle can hold five people plus the driver (Event Lead).

Can I have my ceremony rehearsal in my venue?

Your rehearsal location is based on availability. Rehearsal time and location can be confirmed 30 days before the wedding and must take place during regular Garden hours.

Is admission to the Garden included in my rental?

Admission for your guests is included during regular Garden hours for all venues except for the Pavilion and the Amphitheater.

Can I rent just an outdoor area for my wedding?

No. With the exception of a walk-in wedding, all outdoor rentals require an indoor rental that can be used in the event of inclement weather.

Does the Garden provide table linens?

No. The Garden does not provide linens, dinnerware, glassware, or serving ware. We do provide plastic wine and beer cups, free of charge, for clients hosting a bar. A Vendor list is available upon request.

What size table cloths do I need?

Our table sizes are 60" and 48" round, and 8'x30" and 6'x30" banquet. The length of the table cloth depends on the formality of the event and personal preference. Please consult your rental company for appropriate sized tablecloths for your event.



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Will the Garden provide flowers for centerpieces or any other decorations for my event?

No. We are happy to provide a list of Vendors to help you make your event beautiful.

Can I hang something on the walls? From the ceiling?

No. Any draping, additional lighting, etc., must be installed on a free-standing system. Nothing can be attached to the walls.

Can I move plants or furniture?

No. Existing furniture, plants, art work, and Garden-furnished décor cannot be moved.

Must I buy our alcohol from you?

Yes. The Garden holds a liquor license. Alabama state law requires the renter to purchase alcohol from the Garden for their event. Available alcoholic beverages, prices, and more information can be found in the Bar Packages info sheet, or through the Hospitality Services office.

Can I provide Security/Bartenders for my event?

No. Security is provided by the Garden and is required for events going past Garden hours and/or events with alcohol. Security is \$200 for up to four hours and \$50 for each additional hour. The Garden reserves the right to require extra Security as necessary. A bartender is \$175 for up to four hours of service.

Who can caterer my event?

The Garden maintains a list of Preferred Caterers who are already approved by the Garden and our guests have had excellent service with. Please contact the Hospitality Services staff for a copy of this list. If you wish to use a Caterer who is not on the Preferred list they may apply to be approved by the Garden.

Does the Garden provide a photographer?

No. The Garden does not employ a photographer. You may use any photographer that you choose for your event.

Are drones allowed to operate at the Garden?

The Garden is in restricted airspace. Drone operators must meet all conditions set forth in the Drone Photography Policy and submit a request to the Hospitality Services office.

Can I have my bridal portraits made at the Garden?

Yes. Arrangements must be made through the Hospitality Services office. There is a fee for professional photography at the Garden (see Photography_Application) with the exception of photography in conjunction with a rental. There is no fee required for professional photography for couples whose wedding is booked at the Garden.

Is there a fee for parking?

No. Parking is free and our staff will advise you on the best parking lot for your venue.

Is smoking allowed at the Garden?

We would prefer that our Garden guests do not smoke, but smoking stands have been provided outside of rental venues. No smoking is allowed indoors.