



Ben Cahoon
Mayor

Susie Walters
Mayor Pro Tem

Cliff Ogburn
Town Manager

Town of Nags Head
Post Office Box 99
Nags Head, NC 27959
Telephone 252-441-5508
Fax 252-441-0776
www.nagsheadnc.gov

M. Renée Cahoon
Commissioner

J. Webb Fuller
Commissioner

Michael Siers
Commissioner

Weddings in Nags Head

Thank you for inquiring about weddings on the beach in Nags Head. The Town of Nags Head is proud of its nourished beach and wants to keep it pristine and safe for all to enjoy. Below is information I believe will be helpful and should answer most if not all of your questions.

All North Carolina beaches are public and open to all. It's my understanding from past weddings the surrounding visitors on the beach are very respectful and courteous for a wedding ceremony in progress on the beach. The Town does not require a permit for a wedding to be held on the beach. However, the following are concerns for the Town if the expected attendance is 100 or more. Please provide further info if this is the case.

- How many are expected to attend?
- What is the parking plan?
- Will a reception be held in Nags Head, if so what is physical address?
- Will it be catered (how will solid waste & recyclables be disposed)?
- Date and time of ceremony

The purpose for asking these questions is - the Town's number one concern is public safety. If the expected attendance is high (100 or more) we pass the date, time, location, and etc. on to the Police, Fire, and Ocean Rescue depts. to inform them that an event is scheduled at (address) on (date and time) with (# attending) expected.

Parking plan – unless the wedding is being held at an oceanfront hotel, parking for large events is a concern. The cottages in Nags Head are designed to handle parking based on the approved number of bedrooms only. The formula we use to calculate the number of parking spaces needed is one (1) parking space for every three (3) people. Some people arrange for a shuttle service. Temporary parking may be available at beach accesses or other arrangements are made. Overnight parking is not allowed at public beach accesses. We would need to know what the parking plan is. We ask that you and your guests be respectful of private properties and streets in regards to parking.

Solid Waste - Usually when a reception is catered the caterer disposes of the solid waste/recyclables off-site. If not, additional automated carts may be necessary as the cottages are not designed to handle the refuse for a large event. Trash cannot be left in bags sitting beside the carts for pick up.

Recycling – each residence is provided with a blue recycle cart. Please take note of the collection days that is posted on the cart.

Chairs on the beach – a cap of 40 chairs is allowed for events on the beach. A drive lane must remain open for emergency vehicles and personnel to pass along the beach. Benches are not allowed as they can vary in length.

Items on the beach – a portable arbor may be used; it can be placed on the beach no more than one hour before the ceremony and removed no longer than one hour after the ceremony. For the safety of the birds, fish, and other wildlife please remove all trash and/or items used with the event from the beach. In accordance to Town Code, all items must be removed from the beach by 8:00 p.m. Please do not put up rope or tape as it could be a hazard to the beach goers, children and/or wildlife etc.

Wish/sky lanterns and fireworks - are prohibited by Town Code. Balloons, strings, artificial flower petals etc. are not allowed on the beach as they pose a threat to marine life, wildlife, and humans if ingested.

Alcohol - complimentary alcohol is allowed – open cash bar is not – no sales. No glass please.

Noise – the Town has a noise ordinance which can be found in its entirety on our website www.nagsheadnc.gov Music is allowed in the background.

Tents – tents are allowed on private property. Any tent of 400 sq. ft. or more requires an inspection by the Fire Dept. please call 252-441-5909 for further information.

Beach Pit Fires – are allowed on the beach with a permit (with a fee). Permits are only issued by the Fire Dept. between 5 pm and 9 pm daily based on current wind speed and fire danger conditions.

Beach Driving – vehicles are allowed on the beach from October 1 through April 30, with a Town-issued permit. Usually beach drivers are courteous to wedding ceremonies on the beach.

Jennette's Pier – pier management MUST be contacted to hold a wedding on their property.

Marriage licenses – can be obtained from the Dare County Register of Deeds office. For more information contact them at 252-475-5970 or <http://www.co.dare.nc.us/>

Unmanned Aircraft - If using small unmanned aircraft photography over public property, approval from Nags Head's town manager for each drone operator is required. The request form is available at www.nagsheadnc.gov along with the Town Ordinance regarding unmanned aircraft. Please describe how, when, and where the aircraft will be operated during the event and provide the names of each operator.

Shoreline Management (Beach Renourishment) – Check this [link](#) for up to date information for construction start dates.

These websites should be able to answer your questions concerning the legalities for NC marriages <http://www.outerbanksweddingguide.com> or <http://www.outerbanksweddingassoc.org/magazine.htm>

I hope I have covered most of the information regarding weddings on the beach in Nags Head. Please call or email me with any other questions you may have.

Michelle # Gray

Town of Nags Head

michelle.gray@nagsheadnc.gov

252-449-2021