

RARE FORM LIMOUSINE

School Dance Etiquette for Dummies

Prom, junior prom, homecoming, tolo, winter formal...whatever it's called, if it's a formal or semiformal dance, this article will help you make the most of it!

DO YOU HAVE A DATE?

This is no longer a big deal! Plenty of people go to proms solo or in groups, not as couples.

SAYING "YES"

Once you accept an invitation to a prom, you are committed. Don't be the girl who kept waiting for the better offer that never arrived. Of course, it's pretty lame to turn someone down because "I'm going to be out of town," and then show up with someone else!

WHO SHOULD PAY?

Proms today can be expensive, so it is common for couples or groups to share the costs. This is definitely something that should be agreed upon right after you decide to go so everyone can save up. Most couples or groups split all the costs equally, including tickets, meals, and transportation.

If you are dining at a restaurant or using a limousine service, remember to give a tip if it is not already included in the service. Rare Form Limousine service includes a 20% gratuity, so there's no additional cost.

PLAN AHEAD!

Don't wait until the last minute to make your arrangements for a limousine, restaurant, tuxedo rental, or flowers. Some vendors offer discounts for early bookings, so it's better all around to reserve everything as soon as you know you're going to the dance.

FLOWERS

If your date is cool enough to give you a corsage or boutonnière— wear it! If you're not sure if your date is up to speed, print out this article and show him (or her)!

Don't know what flower goes with "a kind of goldish velvet?" You can't go wrong with white—roses, baby's breath, freesia, stephanotis, spicy carnations—all are pretty, and smell terrific. The florist can help you stay within your budget.

FORMAL OR SEMIFORMAL

Formal usually means long gowns and tuxedos. Semiformal usually means short dresses and dinner jackets or sport coats and ties. If you are inviting a date from another school, clue them in about what to wear.

Tuxedos now come in all colors, but your basic black model still looks great and is less expensive to rent, too. Spice it up with a fresh bow tie and cummerbund (ask at the tuxedo shop).

EVERYBODY DANCE NOW

That's the name of the game at proms today. Solo, group, or couple—it doesn't matter, just as long as you dance.

ONE MORE THING

Spiff up your manners to match your outfit.

Let Mom and Dad take your picture. (You'll love it later!)

Stay sober, and don't get in a car with a driver or anyone else who has been drinking. Better yet, take a Rare Form Limousine. You want to remember this evening as a special highlight in your life, not a tragedy.

Be back by curfew and keep your parents informed of any change in plans. ("Look, Mom—I'm responsible!")

Have a great time!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(February 7, 2007) *Etiquette Tips*. Retrieved February 7, 2007, from <http://www.emilypost.com/etiquette/special/prom.htm>.