

# WEDDING INVITATION *verbiage etiquette*

The traditional wedding invitation verbiage can be found below – please note the difference in request lines for a ceremony taking place at a house of worship compared to a secular location. The traditional text includes wording with the bride’s parents hosting/announcing the wedding.

## HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
request the *honour of your presence*  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Emma Elizabeth  
to

Mr. Michael Jerome Whittaker  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o’clock in the evening  
Highland Park Methodist Church  
Dallas, Texas

## SECULAR LOCATION

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
request the *pleasure of your company*  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Emma Elizabeth  
to

Mr. Michael Jerome Whittaker  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o’clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California

US brides – you may choose to use “honor” or “honour” (honour the the English spelling and tends to be a bit more formal). If “honour” is used, your reply card should reflect the English spelling of “favour”.

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Wanting to modernize your invitation text? Here are a few suggestions:

## GROOM’S PARENTS INCLUDED

(secular location, bride’s parents still hosting)

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
request the *pleasure of your company*  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Emma Elizabeth  
to

Mr. Michael Jerome Whittaker  
son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilson Whittaker  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o’clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California

## GROOM’S PARENTS INCLUDED

(secular location, co-hosting parents)

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
together with  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilson Whittaker  
request the *pleasure of your company*  
at the marriage of their children  
Emma Elizabeth  
to

Mr. Michael Jerome Whittaker  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o’clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California

FAMILIES INCLUDED A  
*(secular location)*

*Together with their families  
Emma Elizabeth  
and  
Michael Jerome Whittaker  
request the pleasure of your company  
at their marriage  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California*

FAMILIES INCLUDED B  
*(secular location)*

*Together with their families  
Emma Elizabeth  
and  
Michael Jerome Whittaker  
invite you to share in their joy  
as they exchange vows  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California*

BRIDE & GROOM HOSTING A  
*(secular location)*

*Emma Elizabeth  
and  
Michael Jerome Whittaker  
request the pleasure of your company at the  
celebration of their marriage  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California*

BRIDE & GROOM HOSTING B  
*(secular location)*

*You are cordially invited to witness  
the wedding uniting  
Emma Elizabeth  
and  
Michael Jerome Whittaker  
Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July  
two thousand twelve  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
Black Swan Lake  
St. Helena, California*

OTHER ETIQUETTE TIPS

DIVORCED PARENTS

*Should be listed on separate lines*

DECEASED PARENT

*Although a lovely sentiment, it is not proper to list name*

JUNIOR OR JR.?

*Either; "\_\_\_\_\_, junior" OR "\_\_\_\_\_, Jr."*

DOCTORS

*"Dr." or "Doctor" can be used depending on the length of the name  
Only medical doctors should use Doctor as their professional title*

REVERENDS

*"The Reverend" can be used as a professional title for either  
parents or the groom*