

The Proposal Decision Scorecard

Planning a proposal is really six linked decisions. This scorecard tells you **which one to decide first**, so you stop going in circles.

How it works: for each decision, circle how stuck you are: **0** decided, **1** leaning, **2** stuck. Multiply by the gold weight. **Highest score = decide it first.**

DECISION	WEIGHT	HOW STUCK? (CIRCLE)	SCORE
Style Private, private + celebration, trip, or public	3	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____
Date & cover story Which day, what time, and why you're going	3	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____
Capture Photographer, friend, tripod, or none	3	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____
Location + backup Where, and where if it rains	2	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____
Setup & decor Flowers, lights, sign, arch, or nothing	2	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____
What to say Your words and your last line	1	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	_____

Decide first: _____ Then: _____

Why the weights?

Style shapes everything else. December is the most popular month to get engaged (The Knot 2026 Real Weddings Study), so holiday dates and photographers often book up early. Your words matter most, but you can write them in the final week.

Tie? Use this order.

Style → Date → Capture → Location → Setup → Words. And if your proposal is **21 days away or less**, book your photographer (if you want one) and a weather backup today, whatever your scores say. That soon, over the holidays? **The Holiday Proposal Sprint (\$19):** theproposalshortlist.com/#sprint

Start with our #1 pick

Here's the default we recommend for most people on each decision. If it fits, circle it and move on. If it doesn't quite fit your partner, that's exactly what the Kit is for.

#1

Style

Private & personal. Pick a public proposal only if your partner has clearly said they'd love one. (53% of couples chose a private setting in 2025, The Knot 2026.)

#1

Date & cover story

A holiday-season evening that isn't the holiday itself: the lights are up, bookings are easier, and the surprise holds. Cover story: a dinner with a reason.

#1

Capture

A hidden photographer if you can spend about \$400–800; otherwise a trusted friend hiding with a phone.

#1

Location

A place that already means something to you two, with a covered or indoor backup within about 15 minutes.

#1

Setup

Warm-white LED candles, fairy lights, and one real bouquet. About \$100–300 and done in under an hour.

#1

Words

60–90 seconds in four parts: why here, one memory, one promise, then their full name and the question.

WHEN #1 ISN'T RIGHT FOR YOU

The Proposal Decision Kit

A #1 pick is a default, not a plan. The Kit shows you **when #1 is wrong for your partner** (partner quiz, "Pick this if..." lines for #2–#4), **what each option costs** at three budgets, cover-story and speech scripts, a filled-in example, and a one-page plan with countdowns and backups.

Designed to be finished in one evening. **\$29** with a 14-day refund policy. Get it at theproposalshortlist.com/#buy

Informational guide only; no guaranteed outcome. Check venue and park rules before any setup. Costs are approximate US prices as of Oct 2026. Questions: hello@theproposalshortlist.com · theproposalshortlist.com · Sold by The Proposal Shortlist.