

TERMS OF CIVILIAN ATTIRE GUIDELINES

“Clothes are to us what fur and feathers are to beasts and birds; they not only add to our appearance, but they are our appearance”-Emily Post

ATTIRE COMMENT <i>(As printed on invitation-See note 1 and 5)</i>	MILITARY MEMBER IN UNIFORM <i>(Refer to Service Equivalent Uniform Table, See note 4)</i>	CIVILIAN MALE	CIVILIAN FEMALE
Mess Dress Black Tie Formal (See note 2) Tuxedo Smoking	Formal and Dinner Dress Uniform	Black Tuxedo or Black Dinner Jacket <i>(with a handkerchief in the upper pocket)</i> White Dinner Jacket acceptable during the summer months <i>(Normally memorial Day to Labor Day)</i> <i>(Dark business suit is acceptable in some cases)</i> Bow tie is standard	Long* or short evening dress <i>(*long dresses/skirts are not normally worn before six o'clock in the evening);</i> Cocktail dress or Evening trousers w/dressy top
Informal or Business Suit	Ceremonial Uniform	Business Suit <i>(Jacket and trousers match)</i> Sport Coat and Tie <i>(Jacket and trousers do not match, can be worn as option before six o'clock))</i>	Evening –Dressy dress with heels and appropriate accessories or jewelry Day-Suit, Ladies Suit, Business Apparel Street-length or “Sunday” dress; ladies suit or pants suit; heels

ATTIRE COMMENT (As printed on invitation-See note 1 and 4)	MILITARY MEMBER IN UNIFORM (Refer to Service Equivalent Uniform Table, See note 4)	CIVILIAN MALE	CIVILIAN FEMALE
Semi-Formal (See note 2)	Ceremonial Uniform	Dark business suit	Very dressy street-length dress or Pant suit; Cocktail dress
Civilian Casual or Business Casual	Service Uniform	Recommended: Sport coat, No tie Slacks, dress shirt (<i>open collar</i>);	Simple skirt or dress, or Nice slacks with jacket Low heeled or flat shoes
Service Dress	Ceremonial Uniform	Business Suit Coat and Tie	Street-length or "Sunday" dress; Ladies suit; Heels
Duty Uniform Uniform of the Day Daily Attire Long-sleeve shirt w/tie Short-sleeve shirt, no tie	Working Uniform	Personal daily work attire Business Suit, Coat & Tie, Slacks/open-collar shirt	Daily work attire Casual dress; Pants suit; Slacks; Long or short skirt/blouse, Low-heel shoes

Notes:

1. The above matrix is not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather serve as a guideline for appropriate attire. There are three basic internationally recognized categories of dress: formal, informal, and casual. However, local customs, traditions and region of the country will directly influence the definition of these terms. To avoid confusion, state what you specifically intend for your guests to wear. Do not list desired attire as optional (ex: Black Tie optional).
2. Historically “Formal” referred to “White Tie” and “Semiformal” referred to “Black Tie”. White Tie is the most formal style of dress and means “tails”-a long black tailcoat with matching trousers, white wing-collared shirt, white bow tie, and white pique waistcoat. For the ladies appropriate dress would be a full-skirted grand ballgown and long white gloves.
3. Outside the diplomatic and conservative business arena, recommend not using this term by itself-be more specific. Stay away from regional cliches, particularly when inviting guests outside of the regional area. Here are a few specific examples:

Attire Comment	Male	Female
Casual, Open Collar	Slacks (i.e., Dockers), open collar sport shirt or golf shirt! Sport coat (optional)– NO TIE!	Khaki pants/cotton blouse; long skirt/knit top; low-heel or “flat” shoes/sandals
Casual, Comfortable Casual, Sporty Casual, Golf Attire	Cotton slacks; open collar sport shirt or golf shirt; wind/warm-up suit; shorts/knit shirt; sneakers or top-siders NO SPORT COAT	Cotton or “sack cloth” slacks/blouse; wind/warm-up suit; knee-length shorts/knit top; Capri pants; sneakers or sandals/flats
Casual, Jeans	Jeans/knit shirt, T-shirt or sweatshirt; sneakers or top-siders	Jeans or jean-skirt/cotton blouse, T-shirt or sweater/sweatshirt; sneakers or flats
Casual, Western	Jeans/western-type shirt or T-shirt; boots or sneakers; cowboy hat optional	Jeans or jean skirt/western-type shirt or off-the-shoulder blouse; boots or sneakers; cowgirl hat optional
Casual, Luau Casual, Island Wear Casual, Caribbean	Light-colored cotton pants or shorts; Hawaiian print shirt; sandals (Thong-type or flip-flops), top-siders or sneakers	Bright-colored “Moo-Moo” –type dress; light-colored cotton slacks with Hawaiian print blouse; sandals (Thong-type or flip-flops); sneakers

4. Event will generally dictate the appropriateness of wearing the military uniform versus civilian attire.
5. When in doubt, ask the host.