



How To Stay On A Holiday Guest List (aka RSVP protocol)

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As all party givers know, having an accurate guest count is vital to the success of the party as well as to the host's stress level. Often, responding to the invitation does not get the attention it deserves. Etiquette dictates you should reply in the manner requested and by the requested date. For example, informing the host of your intentions if you see them socially, is not the same as returning the reply card, sending an email response or phone call.

There are several things to keep in mind when responding to a party invitation. Unless the invitation includes "and guest", you should not bring one. The same rule applies to children. If you responded without a plus-one, response etiquette and decorum says do NOT bring a guest. You must always follow your response.

Once you accept the invitation, you are obligated to attend. If for some reason you are not able to attend after you have accepted, it is only proper to CALL to explain your situation as to why you can't attend. Being a "no show" is totally unacceptable. Also, canceling because you have a "better offer" is the quickest way to be removed from the guest list.

If you get an invitation with "regrets only" at the bottom, it means that your host is going to assume that you are coming, unless you call to tell him that, regretfully, you can't.

There you have it! All you need to know about the proper way to R.S.V.P. and remain on everyone's guest list!