



Katie and Tyler's wedding took place indoors last minute due to weather



Ambrosia Euro American Patisserie in Barrington designed the wedding cake.

Katie and Tyler Van der Voort

A JULY 6 WEDDING AT A SENTIMENTAL LOCATION IN LAKE GENEVA

KATIE LIESKE AND TYLER VAN DER VOORT met each other through mutual friends their senior year at Barrington High School in 2009. While in the same Horticulture class, Katie, from Deer Park, and Tyler, from Barrington Hills, found out they were both going to Indiana University that Fall and were excited to attend together.

While attending IU, Tyler pursued a Business Management Degree. Katie obtained her Degree in Education, followed by a Master's Degree in Diverse Learning. Both graduates moved back to Chicago. Katie took a job teaching at a charter high school. Tyler began work at Arthur J. Gallagher. In August of 2017, after a few too many Chicago winters, they decided to move to Texas. Katie migrated to Austin for a teaching position at Westlake High School in Eanes ISD – the same district where Barrington 220's former Administrators Tom Leonard and Jeff Arnett currently work alongside one another. Meanwhile, Tyler was working in the Dallas branch of AJG.

"After dating for about nine years, Katie asked me when I was going to pop the question," Tyler laughed. While at home that Thanksgiving, Tyler asked Katie's parents, Laura and Brant Lieske, for her hand. Tyler took Katie to dinner for her December 1st birthday after their return to their respective Texas cities. The staff at Austin's historic Driskill Hotel restaurant were given advanced notice of the planned proposal. "The staff brought out a special dessert with a fake ring on top, and then I pulled out the real ring."


The couple chose a wedding date for July 6, 2019. Becky Dreyer of "Something Blue" in Lake Geneva assisted with planning. "We wanted to keep it simple, with décor of navy and white alongside fresh greenery," Katie said. Bigfoot Country Club was a sentimental choice for the wedding ceremony as Katie has been attending events there with her grandparents, Ed and Carole Lieske, throughout her childhood. Despite having passed away the February prior to the ceremony, Katie's grandfather, Ed, was felt in spirit.

The wedding weekend began with a Thursday evening boat cruise on Lake Geneva aboard the historic "Steam Yacht Louise". The rehearsal took place on Friday evening, followed by a rehearsal dinner and welcome party at The Abbey Resort. The wedding ceremony was planned for outside, but due to several days of rain, Katie and Tyler married inside of Bigfoot Country Club.

The couple felt lucky to have two flower girls, and usher, and a ring bearer—all family friends from Barrington. Their wedding cake was made by Ambrosia in Barrington. Celebrity congratulatory video messages from Tom Skilling of WGN-TV and Chicago Bears QB Mitchell Trubisky were sent by family friends.

Post-honeymoon, the newlyweds returned to Texas and reside in Dallas. Upon reflection, they offer words of wisdom:

"From a guy's perspective, offer few comments on the planning and let the bride handle most of it," Tyler said. He adds to take as much in as you can because the wedding and celebration goes so fast and it's difficult to remember everything.

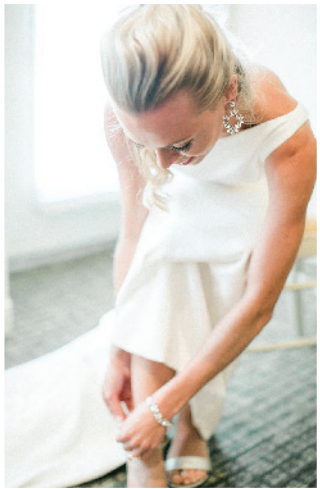
Katie says, "Enjoy the moment, and take photos to share and remember everyone who was there, especially those you don't see often." 



Katie and her bridesmaids. Her sister Maggie (right of bride) was the maid of honor.



Ned, the couple's rescue dog, was part of their ceremony.



A quiet moment for Katie before her wedding.



A sentimental toast to the newlyweds.



Tyler and Katie pause after the rehearsal dinner.



Kara, Jack, and Carter Johnson are family friends.



The groomsmen showed their patriotic flare for the couples July 6, 2019 wedding.