

THE BRIDAL PARTY

The bridal shower- Most people are honored to be in a wedding but are not always sure what their responsibilities are. It is up to you to ask the members of your bridal party to accept obligations. You should delegate as many details as possible. Decide with your fiancé and write down what you would like each person to help you with. Give them the request in writing way in advance. Suggestions for responsibilities are below.

Groom- The groom chooses his attendants and their gifts. He buys the engagement and wedding rings, arranges the honeymoon, and keeps his parents informed of how the wedding plans are coming along.

Maid/ Matron of honor- The Maid/ Matron of honor can perhaps help you decide on bridesmaids gowns, addressing invitations, recording your gifts and organizing bridesmaids for dress fittings. She may check with the mothers and grandmothers of the bride and groom on their dresses so that flowers can be ordered. She is your personal maid to help you throughout the ceremony and reception, to rearrange your train, to hold your bouquet and to deliver your wedding gown to the dry cleaner after the ceremony. She should bring tissues, extra pantyhose, safety pins, needle and thread, bobby pins, makeup, spot remover, glue and any other necessities to the reception in case of an emergency. She should arrive early at your home on your wedding day that way she can be there to help in any way she can.

Best Man- The best man should make sure that the ushers know what to do at the ceremony and the reception. He holds the rings for the ceremony and the marriage license. He may also hold the groom's wallet and travel tickets during the wedding and reception. He pays the officiant's fee, all gratuities at the reception, and limousine gratuities. This money is provided by the groom's family. He is responsible for delivering the bride and groom to the airport or hotel after the wedding. He acts as the toastmaster at the bridal table. He is responsible for preparing the car for the drive and returning the groom's formal wear.

Make sure your best man has a list of these responsibilities. He usually arranges a bachelor party, if desired. If the wedding party is going to leave the ceremony to have pictures somewhere else before the reception and limousines are not provided, the best man is responsible for organizing transportation for the wedding party to and from the ceremony.

Bridesmaids- Bridesmaids add beauty to your wedding but can also be very helpful if you delegate. They may help you to prepare your wedding favors. They usually decorate the groom's car and make sure your trousseau is at the reception hall. They can call to confirm all arrangements 3 days before the wedding.

Ushers- Be sure to explain the seating arrangements to the ushers prior to the ceremony. They should ask the arriving guests which side they represent, Bride or Groom, and bring them to the appropriate seat. They may also place flowers on the mothers and grandmothers of the bride and groom. They may also hand out ceremony programs if any.

Flower girl- The flower girl may help the bride at the bridal shower by opening the gifts. At traditional receptions she will be asked to dance with the ring bearer.

Ring Bearer- The Ring Bearer usually walks in the processional with a pillow or a plate and delivers the rings to the Best Man. He also dances with the flower girl at the reception.