

## **Bridal Party Responsibilities**

Bridal parties span small to large. Some are the bride and groom, plus a best man and maid of honor. Others can have 12 or more attendants. A good rule of thumb in selecting attendants is to seek those close to you who want to share in the celebration as honored participants.

This article outlines the duties typically assigned to the individual bridal party members.

### **The Maid/Matron of Honor**

She is normally the closest friend, a sister or other close relative. The maid of honor is responsible for organizing the bride and her entourage of friends and family. She should be organized and tactful to keep everyone on the same page. She can be a lifesaver when tempers flare or egos get deflated. In charge of the bridal shower and Bachelorette party, she also watches after the bride through the entire ceremony and reception.

During the ceremony, the maid of honor holds the bridal bouquet and the groom's ring.

### **The Best Man**

He is usually a best friend, father, brother or other close relative. As chief groomsman, his job is to ensure the groom's on-time arrival to the ceremony, to see to the fittings and rentals of formal wear plus their return. He also keeps up with the groom's appearance and essentials, including the ring. He is responsible for watching over the reception, and typically hands out the payments/tips envelopes to the caterer, officiant, photographer, DJ and other hired services.

The best man is usually the first to give a toast to the newly married couple.

He also acts as the travel agent on the wedding day – he confirms the honeymoon reservations, arranges for the getaway car. He also plans the bachelor party.



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## **Bridal Party Responsibilities (continued)**

### **Bridesmaids**

Bridesmaids are simply the bride's friends and relatives she chooses to honor by having them stand at her side on her wedding day. They participate in the planning of the activities that the maid of honor chooses for them. However, they do have some say in things and should be allowed to voice their opinion. They are often responsible for arranging parts of the reception and for making favors.

### **Groomsmen**

These men are the groom's friends and relatives he chooses to honor by having them stand at his side on his wedding day. Traditionally, the groomsmen plan and execute the bachelor party or some other event with the groom. Groomsmen often act as ushers and run errands prior to the ceremony and reception.

### **Flower Girl**

This young relative or friend of the family is part of the ceremony. They often throw petals or walk with the ring bearer. Her dress is often a miniature replica of the bride's gown.

### **Ring Bearer**

This young man carries faux rings tied to a pillow as part of the ceremony. He often wears a miniature replica of the groom's attire.

### **Usher(s)**

Ushers assist with seating the guests. Often, these are the groomsmen in smaller weddings. Larger weddings may have specific friends or family members assigned to the role of usher.



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