

# ALICIA MARGARET

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## Events

### GRATUITIES GUIDE

Providing gratuities to vendors is very subjective, though for some services it is more expected than for others. **The guide below was created based on standard industry expectations in the NY/NJ metropolitan area.**

*Remember that while tips are greatly appreciated for having provided excellent service, positive online reviews and referrals are other great ways to show your appreciation. They are worth more than you think!*

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#### PROTOCOL: Expected

**Day-of Personal Beauty/Grooming Services (hair, makeup, on-site barber):** 15-20% of the total charges. If your bridal party is paying for their own services, remind them to include a tip, or alternatively, offer to pay the tip amount on their behalf as a “thank you.”

**Drivers (limos, trolleys, party buses, shuttles, etc.):** \$25-\$100 per driver or 15-20% of the total pre-tax bill (depending on how many hours they are working and how many trips they are doing).

**Officiant:** Some officiants request a donation to the church, but if your officiant is not affiliated with a house of worship, a tip of at least \$100 and an invite to the wedding are common gestures.

**DJ/MC:** 15-20% of the total pre-tax bill or \$250-\$500.

**Band Members and Live Entertainment:** \$20-\$50 per person.

#### VENUE AND CATERING STAFF

The gratuity for your venue and/or catering staff is dictated by your contract. Note the *service charge* on a catering bill is not usually a gratuity and therefore not directly distributed to the staff. If you are unsure, ask your caterer or venue to clarify the charges and whether your bill already includes gratuity. If gratuity is included, this amount is typically 15-20% of the food and drink fee. If it is *not* included, ask in advance how many bartenders, waitstaff, and bridal attendants will be working and calculate amounts based on the suggestions below.

**Catering Service Staff:** \$20-\$50 per server; \$50-\$100 per chef or catering manager.

**Bartenders:** \$50-\$100 per bartender (unless there is a tip jar, but we advise against putting one out. It comes off as tacky!).

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**Bridal attendant(s):** \$50-\$100 each. This is the individual(s) waiting on you hand and foot all day making sure you always have a drink in hand, making sure you eat, carrying your bouquet and train, and so much more. Even if gratuity is included in your final bill, giving this person(s) a little something extra for outstanding service will be greatly appreciated.

**Valet, Coatroom, and Bathroom Attendants:** \$1-\$2 per guest for each service. For example, if you have 200 guests and tip \$1 per guest, all the valet attendants would split \$200. The coatroom attendants and bathroom attendants would also each split \$200.

**Maitre'd:** Again, this may already be included in your venue contract and can vary widely, but if not already included or dictated in the contract, \$2-\$3 per guest is the minimum.

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### **PROTOCOL: Optional**

**Ceremony participants:** \$15-\$40 each. This includes altar servers and ceremony musicians (excludes family and friends who may do a reading, hand out programs, etc.).

**Lighting Installers:** \$20-\$50 per worker.

**Rental Delivery Personnel:** \$20-\$40 per worker depending on the complexity and effort needed to make the delivery.

**Baker:** \$20-\$50 per delivery person.

**Florist:** \$100-\$200 or a gift certificate would make a great “thank you” as you likely spent a lot of time designing the event with them. If your setup is complex, \$10-\$20 per set up person would be thoughtful.

**Photographer and Videographer:** \$150-\$300 for the main shooters and \$50-\$150 for the second shooters or 5-10% of the pre-tax bill. Aside from your planner, they spend the most time with you throughout the day!

**Planners:** We see a wide range of tipping, and there's no right or wrong amount to give to your planner. Everything from gift cards, a thoughtful gift, or monetary tipping ranging from 10-20% of the cost of services are appreciated. This amount can also depend on the level of service booked and how long and closely you have worked together.

**Don't forget to refer back to [this blog post](#) for more advice and reminders to make tipping an easy part of your planning process.**