

Gratuities: A Balazs Events Standard

Gratuities are a meaningful way to acknowledge the professionals who bring your celebration to life with care, precision, and thoughtful execution. While never required, they are always appreciated when service exceeds expectations.

Below is our recommended approach, informed by industry standards from The Knot and BRIDES®, and refined through our experience in producing events. These recommendations reflect standard vendor categories. For any additional or unique vendor teams, we are happy to provide tailored guidance based on your specific celebration.

We suggest preparing gratuities in advance, placed in labeled envelopes. Your planning team will oversee distribution, so each moment of your day remains uninterrupted and fully experienced.

Pro tip: Bring your prepared envelopes to your rehearsal. We will take them off your hands so there is nothing additional to manage on the wedding day.

CATERING & SERVICE TEAM

15 to 20% of the pre-tax food and beverage total if gratuity is not already included.

If a service charge is included, we recommend confirming whether gratuity is distributed to staff. If not, an additional \$10 to \$20 per staff member is a thoughtful, optional gesture.

BAR SERVICE

15 to 20% of the pre-tax total, or \$50 to \$75 per bartender if not already included.

Alternatively, you may allow tip jars. We recommend selecting one approach, rather than combining the two.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

\$50 to \$200 per lead professional, with \$50 to \$75 for assistants, depending on scope and experience.

ENTERTAINMENT

\$25 to \$50 per musician, or \$50 to \$75 for a DJ or emcee.

CAKE DELIVERY TEAM

\$15 to \$20 for the delivery team, typically one to two individuals.

HAIR & MAKEUP ARTISTS

15 to 20% of services, based on overall experience and results.

If your wedding party is covering their own services or gratuities, we recommend sharing digital payment details with your maid or matron of honor in advance for ease on the wedding day.

PLANNING & PRODUCTION TEAM

For full-service planning and design, gratuities are never expected, though always deeply appreciated. Clients who wish to extend one often provide a discretionary amount or a thoughtful gift.

Day-of assistants are typically tipped \$50 to \$75 each.

OFFICIANT

\$50, a donation to their place of worship, or a meaningful gift.

FLORAL & DESIGN INSTALLATION

For teams providing an on-site installation beyond delivery, \$50 to \$100 is a thoughtful gesture, though not required.

RENTALS & LIGHTING

Gratuities are not customary for these teams.