

## WHAT IS A BRIDESMAID EXPECTED TO DO?

1. **PAY:** Pay for your outfit, including your dress, shoes, jewelry, and accessories.
2. **HOST:** Host and pay for the shower. (and bachelorette party) with the other bridesmaids. This is a massive task in our neck of the woods, including reserving and paying for a hall, food, decorations, invitations, stamps, favors, prizes, and usually a collective gift for the bride. Often, the bridesmaids also bake cookies for a dessert table, to be used as favors, and to be taken home. People in the wedding party must also be assigned to act as a sort of emcee for games, to hand out prizes, to help the bride unwrap gifts, make a record of all the gifts received, and sometimes to make a corny, but cute, bonnet or bouquet from the ribbons and bows (to be worn at the wedding rehearsal).
3. **HELP:** Offer to help the bride with tasks prior to the wedding, such as picking out the dresses, writing or stuffing envelopes for the wedding invitations, and anything else the bride might need. But do not insist on helping with any task the bride prefers to handle herself.
4. **ATTEND:** Attend any and all pre-wedding parties and events, as well as the rehearsal for the ceremony (paying full attention to all instructions), and the rehearsal dinner.
5. **RUN:** Be ready to run errands prior to the wedding, and on the big day itself. This can range from picking up people at the airport, making sure the bride has something to eat, or affixing pew bows.
6. **ARRANGE:** Help the honor attendant arrange the bride's train and help her to bustle the train before dancing begins.
7. **DIRECT:** Help make the cocktail hour and reception a success by directing guests to the guest book, introducing people to one another, showing them the coat room, restroom or bar, or standing in the receiving line, if requested.



8. **DANCE:** Here's a big one—hit the dance floor when the music begins to help get the party rolling. If the attendants jump up to dance, the guests will follow. Throughout the event, think of yourself as a mini-hostess and watch out for people who do not have a partner and ask them to dance. This could include a solo groomsman or Great Aunt Tillie!
9. **SUPPORT:** Finally, your biggest job is to give emotional and practical support to the bride throughout the planning process and on her wedding day. Don't complain about the expense and work involved in being a bridesmaid, and act as if you like your dress, even if you don't. Look for ways to ease her stress and you will have been the perfect bridesmaid.