

FESTIVAL AND EVENT PRODUCTION

Staffing and Labor Guide

Staffing Guide

Staffing is one of the most important aspects of all festivals and events – after all, without the proper staffing levels and skill sets, your event will not likely succeed.

Below is a list of all major staffing positions and who reports to who:

Determine your advance and run of show staffing needs

This is based on the size of your event and how much you need to outsource vs. utilizing internal company help or doing yourself.

Pay for these kind of roles usually falls under a day rate, but it's not uncommon to pay a flat event rate as well. Estimated pay ranges are included for the roles below, based on the scope of work, size of the event, hours expected to work, and elements you're working in (i.e., extreme weather).

General List of Event / Festival Staff (smaller events will not need all of these):

Festival / Event Director - \$500 - \$750+ / day

Site Manager - \$300 to \$600 / day

Site Crew - \$200 - \$300 / day

Signage Team

Build / Strike Team

Production Manager - \$300 - \$600 / day

Production Assistant - \$250 - \$300 / day

Stage Manager - \$250 - \$500 / day

Labor Manager - \$250 - \$400 / day

Stage Crew - \$150 - \$250 / day

Security Manager - \$300 - \$600 / day

VIP Manager - \$300 - \$400 / day

VIP Coordinators - \$200 - \$300 / day

Hospitality Manager - \$300 - \$400 / day

Hospitality Coordinators - \$200 - \$300 / day

Sponsorship Manager - \$300 - \$400 / day

Media Manager - \$300 - \$400 / day

Social Media Coordinator - \$200 - \$300 / day

Photographer - \$200+ per day

Food Vendor Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Art Vendor Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Non-Profit Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Parking Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Front of House / Crowd Control Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Camping Manager - \$300 - \$500 / day

Office Manager- \$250 - \$400 / day

Festival Manager - \$250 - \$500 / day

Box Office Manager - \$250 - \$500 / day

Box Office Team - \$150 - \$200 / day

Artist Relations Manager - \$250 - \$400 / day

Transportation Team - \$200 - \$300 / day

Artist Relations Coordinators - \$150 - \$250 / day

Compile a Staffing Grid - [download .xls version here](#)

Compile a Staff / Vendor Catering Grid - don't forget to feed your staff - [download .xls version here](#)

Look to either outsource a turnkey staffing company or source individually

Outsourcing a staffing company will come with a higher overhead cost but it can also let you consolidate your needs in one place, and perhaps with all highly-skilled, professional members. But if there are weak links once the event begins, it's often too difficult to replace at the last minute.

Sourcing individually allows you the flexibility to plug in your most desired personnel in key positions, and it can save you in some overhead costs. It will take longer on the admin / contracting side.

Be sure to ask for and review feedback from your staff.

It's important for their voices to be heard as well as they will often catch issues management may not see. It's also important to recognize extraordinary performers and achievements.

Download our event and festival staff feedback template to use as a guide.

Labor Guide

For stagehand, production, and/or site related labor, determine if it needs to be union / non-union

Determine if your state is right-to-work or a forced-unionism state

Union Labor Details:

Most Common Unions for Events and Festivals:



IASTE - *The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada was founded in 1893 when representatives of stagehands working in eleven cities met in New York and pledged to support each others' efforts to establish fair wages and working conditions for their members.*



Teamsters - *The Teamsters are known as the champion of freight drivers and warehouse workers, but have organized workers in virtually every occupation imaginable, both professional and non-professional, private sector and public sector.*

Stagehand labor usually includes:

loaders/pushers - *those who take care of moving around road cases and other gear*

riggers - *those who climb up and rig points to hang PA, lighting, truss, and other flown equipment*

spot ops - *those who operate follow spots for the event's*

performers

fork ops - those who operate heavy machinery like forklifts

carpenters - for events that need custom wood pieces created

electricians - help ensure vendors / artists are properly tied into the house electrical system

stewards - also known as a crew chief, oversee the various roles above



Stage Crew

Building the Main Stage at Country Thunder, 2013

Breaks / meals have to be determined.

Normal rule of thumb is *one meal every five hours*; either a half hour on-site with meals provided or a one hour walk away with no meal provided. For union labor, there may be a strict rule regarding this; you will want to confirm and ensure they are properly accommodated.

For larger events, it usually makes sense to provide all labor with catering meal tickets and stagger their breaks so there are no major gaps in work. The Labor Manager normally oversees this and also ensures that the vendors the labor are working for are also coordinated with their breaks so no labor is left sitting idle.

Make a stagehand labor grid and advance it with all affected departments. Below is an example with formulas - [download the Excel version here.](#)

