

JOB DESCRIPTION

Barback – Seasonal

Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre • Detroit, Michigan
Season: May – Early September | Up to 40–50 Events

Position Title	Barback – Seasonal
Department	Food & Beverage
Reports To	Bar Manager / Lead Bartender
Employment Type	Seasonal, Part-Time / Event-Based
Season Dates	May – Early September 2026
Location	Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, Detroit, MI
Compensation	\$15 + Tip Share
FLSA Status	Non-Exempt

1. About the Venue

The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre is one of Detroit's premier outdoor entertainment destinations, situated on the scenic Detroit riverfront. With a capacity of 6,000 guests and a season schedule of 40–50 events from May through early September, the venue delivers world-class concerts and live entertainment to hundreds of thousands of fans each summer.

Barbacks are the engine behind every great bar operation. In a high-volume concert environment, the Barback role is essential — keeping bartenders stocked, the bar clean, and service moving without interruption. If you are dependable, hard-working, and eager to grow in the food and beverage industry, this is an excellent entry point into venue operations.

2. Position Summary

The Seasonal Barback provides direct support to bartenders and the Food & Beverage team throughout each event. Responsibilities center on stocking, restocking, and maintaining bar areas so that bartenders can serve guests at full speed without interruption. The Barback must be physically capable, highly responsive, and team-oriented, working efficiently in a loud, fast-paced,

outdoor concert environment. This is an event-based seasonal position; scheduling is tied directly to the concert calendar.

3. Key Responsibilities

Event Preparation

- Arrive at the designated call time to assist with full bar setup.
- Stock bar wells, coolers, and back bars with beer, wine, spirits, mixers, and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Fill and distribute ice bins to all assigned bar stations.
- Set up cups, napkins, straws, garnishes, and other bar supplies at each station.

During-Event Support

- Continuously monitor bar inventory levels throughout the event and restock proactively — do not wait to be asked.
- Replenish ice, beer, wine, spirits, mixers, cups, and supplies at all assigned bar locations.
- Remove and dispose of empty bottles, cans and trash from bar areas promptly and safely.
- Keep bar surfaces, speed wells, drains, and floor mats clean and free of debris throughout service.
- Retrieve and transport product from storage and walk-in cooler areas as directed.
- Respond immediately to bartender requests and anticipate needs before they become urgent.
- Communicate low-stock situations to the Bar Manager without delay.

Bar Cleanliness and Sanitation

- Maintain a clean, organized, and sanitary bar environment throughout the event.
- Empty and sanitize drip trays, speed rails, and sink areas regularly during service.
- Wipe down bar surfaces, equipment, and dispensing units as needed.
- Adhere to all food safety, sanitation, and health code standards at all times.

Post-Event Breakdown

- Break down bar stations after service: drain ice bins, collect and sort empties, and properly store remaining product.
- Clean and sanitize all bar surfaces, taps, equipment, and utensils.
- Return unused inventory to storage in an organized manner.
- Assist with securing the bar area and completing all assigned post-event side work before clocking out.

Teamwork and Conduct

- Work as a reliable and cooperative partner to bartenders, fellow barbacks, and management.
- Attend all pre-event briefings and complete any required trainings before the first shift.

- Maintain a clean uniform and professional appearance at all times while on duty.
- Represent the Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre with a positive attitude and strong work ethic.

4. Qualifications

Required

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Ability to work at a fast pace and maintain energy and focus throughout long shifts in an outdoor, high-volume environment.
- Strong work ethic, reliability, and a proactive “see it, do it” attitude.
- Ability to follow verbal instructions quickly and accurately in a loud, crowded setting.
- Ability to stand for extended periods (up to 6–8 hours) and lift and carry up to 50 lbs unassisted.
- Reliable transportation and availability to work evenings, weekends, and holidays as required by the event schedule.

Preferred

- Prior experience as a barback, bar porter, or in a high-volume food & beverage setting (stadium, arena, amphitheatre, or restaurant).
- Basic familiarity with bar operations.
- Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) awareness or willingness to complete responsible beverage service training.
- Aspiring bartenders are encouraged to apply — this role is an excellent pathway to a bartending position in future seasons.

5. Work Environment and Physical Demands

This position operates outdoors throughout a Detroit summer, including in heat, humidity, and occasional rain. The concert environment is loud, crowded, and fast-moving. Barbacks are on their feet and in constant motion for the duration of each shift.

- Standing, walking, and carrying for the full duration of each shift (6–8+ hours).
- Lifting and transporting kegs, cases of beer and spirits, and ice bags — up to 50 lbs unassisted; heavier items with team assistance.
- Frequent bending, reaching, squatting, and working in confined bar areas.
- Working in direct sunlight and heat for extended periods.
- Navigating crowded concourses and service areas during peak event times.

6. Schedule and Availability

This is an event-based seasonal position. Shifts are scheduled in accordance with the venue's concert calendar, which runs from May through early September and includes 40–50 events. Most events are held on evenings and weekends; some weekday events may also occur.

Availability Requirements

- Must be available for the full season: May through early September 2026.
- Must be available for evening and weekend events; some weekday shows included.
- Shifts typically begin 2–3 hours before gates open and run through post-event breakdown.
- Late finishes (midnight or later) are common; reliable transportation is essential.
- Number of shifts per week varies with the event calendar; flexible scheduling between events.

7. Compensation and Benefits

- Competitive hourly wage: \$15 per hour.
- Tip share participation per event shift (amount determined by bar management).
- Opportunity for rehire, advancement, and consideration for bartending roles in future seasons.
- Hands-on experience in a professional, high-volume live entertainment venue.

8. How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following to be considered:

- A current resume highlighting any relevant food, beverage, or event experience.
- A brief cover letter or note describing your availability and interest in the 2026 season.

Submit Applications To:

TRP Team
employment@thearetha.com

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