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SADIE BRINTON

Manager
New York



A MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

Sadie Brinton, a Manager with Alvarez & Marsal Corporate Performance Improvement in New York, is currently working on a supply chain performance improvement project with a national consumer beverage manufacturer. Leveraging her work experience and education, Sadie is optimizing planning for production and purchasing of beverages and other purchase-for-resale refrigerated food and drinks. Here's an account – in Sadie's own words – of a typical day working as an A&M Manager.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

5:35 AM

My alarm goes off and I'm tempted to hit the snooze button. Thankfully, I'm already committed to a 6 am workout class and have promised to meet a coworker in our hotel lobby at 5:45 am. I always feel more energized starting my day by exercising, and I've been lucky to have a workout buddy on this project to hold me accountable.

8:30 AM

After catching up on emails, I go downstairs to the Planning Manager's office to sit in on a daily sales call for the plant. This cross-functional call brings together people from the Operations team (our client sponsor is the Chief Supply Chain Officer) and the Sales and Transportation / Logistics team. Each group discusses what is going right or wrong with that day's production and deliveries. After the call ends, I use the face-time as an opportunity to sync with the Planning Manager on what work must be covered that day and what issues she thinks might come up. Due to her cross-functional experience and working relationships, she is a great source of knowledge. I'm often able to bring back important information to my A&M team members who lead other workstreams.

10:30 AM

We head down to join a daily meeting for all managers in the plant, led by the Plant Manager. Each person provides an update on people, quality, and safety issues. The A&M team members also have an opportunity to give updates.

7:45 AM

After an invigorating class, I shower, make some coffee in the hotel room, and then meet our larger project team in the lobby. About half of the team meets early and eats together, but I take my breakfast to go so I'm not rushed. Once we arrive at the manufacturing plant, I eat my breakfast, drink another cup of coffee, and read some news online. When on the road for weeks at a time, it's nice to keep to a familiar routine as much as possible.

9:15 AM

I sit down with the A&M consultant on my workstream to review the updates she's made to a production schedule we are working to validate for a senior member of the operations team. The model has been a team effort – a data savvy Senior Director (SD) drafted an initial mock-up, and the consultant and I work to build it out. This morning, she shows me suggested changes to sync production with demand. We make a plan to divide and conquer the work.

12:00 PM

The A&M team checks out the snack stash in our conference room and realizes it's time for a food run. The MD, a consultant on our team, and I take everyone's lunch orders, and then we drive out to Whole Foods. We divide up the tasks - restocking snacks, picking up water jugs and sparkling water, and filling the lunch orders - and meet at check out. Having a steady supply of healthy snacks in the conference room is a game changer when we are working early mornings and late nights.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

2:30 PM

We are turning on a new SOP (standard operating procedure) for purchasing products from sister plants that syncs the purchase schedules with production days, which gets us closer to “just in time” ordering. The Planning Manager has worked closely with us to design the SOP, but she feels nervous about placing her first orders with the new system. I sit in her office to walk through the steps with her. The Senior Director stops by to check in, and we ensure the client that if anyone questions the new method, we will fully support her. Coaching through change can be as challenging as building complex models or thinking strategically through a problem.

5:30 PM

I'm the New York Manager representative on the East Region's Emerging Leaders Board and I have a thirty minute catch up with the New York Analyst and Consultant Representatives. We have an event this Friday afternoon to solicit feedback from the junior professionals in CPI, which we will then bring back to senior leadership. On the call discuss our proposed agenda and determine where we want to have Happy Hour after the meeting.

9:00 PM

I'm on the Junior Advisory Board for A&M's Women's Leadership Connection and I'm helping to plan a breakfast in the New York office. I check the current RSVP status and send a quick update to my co-planner. Then, its time for a face mask, the latest episode of my favorite show, and finally a chapter of my book before turning out the lights.

4:30 PM

The A&M team on the planning workstream sits down with the Plant Manager to preview the updated production schedule we've been working on. We have a meeting the next morning to present to his manager, so we always ensure that our work makes sense to all parties involved before such a big presentation. It's crucial to have the Plant Manager's support and buy-in before sharing with the extended client team.

7:00 PM

We have a reservation at our team's favorite local Italian restaurant to welcome a new A&M manager. Although we don't dine together every night while on the road, our team loves good food and we do enjoy decompressing over pasta and wine. Aside from a few quick comments, we don't discuss work at dinner, focusing instead on upcoming vacations and a team member's wedding planning.

ABOUT SADIE BRINTON

Sadie Brinton is a Manager with Alvarez & Marsal Corporate Performance Improvement in the New York office with experience in digital and organizational transformations of consumer product and tech, media, and telecom companies leading change management, data analytics, and strategic communications initiatives.

With ten years of experience, Ms. Brinton brings expertise in digital product management, process improvement, and change management to her client work.

Ms. Brinton earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from New York University, Stern School of Business and a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and Latin American studies from Duke University.

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