

Head Brewer Needed – Big Lake, AK

We are building a brand-new brewery/restaurant right on the lakefront (South Shore) of Big Lake and are looking for an experienced commercial brewer that is ready to take the next step in their career. This is an opportunity to get aboard at the start-up and help build our brewing program and brand from the ground up. We want to hire our new Brewer by October/November 2022, and plan on completing construction around the same time to be open to the public (date could push...all depending on construction timelines, but we'd love to get a conversation going with interested applicants the sooner the better!!). We currently are operating as a small temporary café and working out all the kinks with our food menu, so next on the agenda is the beer, followed by a large brand-new kitchen to support our 20,000 SF facility w/a 300 seat dining space, 200 seat banquet room, and a half acre beer garden w/bandstand for outdoor summer concerts. We cannot wait for construction to get far enough along so we can start brewing!! With that said... NOW is a great time to make an introduction and get you in the door!

Get to know this role:

Our Head Brewer will be responsible for operating our 20bbl ABE (4) Vessel brewhouse, with (5) 40bbl Premier fermenters, designing and executing a substantial amount of unique beers across a multitude of styles, as well as producing recurring styles with consistency.

They will be responsible for leading the team through training, providing direction and coaching, and engagement. They are the point person for all daily floor operations in beer production and are responsible for ensuring best practices are being followed, brew staff are staying on target, and that safety standards are being followed. They have an eye for detail and for identifying and correcting inefficiencies. They celebrate work well done while also recognizing continuous room for improvement.

Self-starters wanted!! Our most successful team members are those who go the extra mile in both ability and desire. Susitna Brewing Company needs individuals that naturally possess a true ownership of their craft/operator mentality who will help contribute to our long-term success. We look for those individuals who apply themselves to their work. The ideal candidate will be a dynamic individual who is excited to join us in creating a something truly unique. We are curating an experience here as much as anything else!

As our Lead Brewer, you will be responsible for:

1. Leadership:
 1. Reinforce our culture with a strong focus on safety, compliance, and staff engagement
 2. Act as the technical/practical brewing expert for all daily operations
 3. Provide timely training, continued coaching, and mentoring to all staff brewers
2. Process & Procedure Oversight:
 1. Establish and enact all daily brewhouse and cellar floor operations with a goal to maximize production and efficiency without compromising quality
 2. Oversee and audit all batch documentation and record keeping and ensure all has been entered correctly (EKOS, Production Updates, BeerSmith, brewing logs, etc.)
 3. Create, audit, and update all new and existing wort production and green beer cellaring SOPs to establish best practices
3. Hands On Administration:
 1. Perform the duties of staff brewer and senior brewer as necessary to achieve production goals
 2. Assist with barrel-related processes as needed
 3. Perform in-process and post-packaging sensory evaluation and participate in sensory panels as needed
 4. Assist with company operations as needed (releases, special considerations)
4. Coordination & Scheduling:
 1. Communicate brew schedule and coordinate spent grain pick-ups with farmer
 2. Oversee chemical usage and place orders with chemical supplier
 3. Oversee and coordinate all reactive and preventive maintenance activities on all pertinent equipment
 4. Raw material receiving, rotating, and inventory management in collaboration with the COO.

Details about our ideal candidate:

1. Skill and Knowledge:
 1. 5+ years of experience in the commercial brewing industry
 2. Strong verbal and written communication
 3. Strong work ethic and “can do” attitude
 4. Strong understanding of maintenance needs of production equipment
2. Personal Competencies:
 1. Remain calm under pressure and when dealing with unexpected production issues
 2. Be a strong and trusting team player
 3. Maintain relationships with coworkers, vendors and other breweries
 4. Basic problem solving skills
 5. Excellent communication skills
3. Supervision:
 1. Uses independent action in setting objectives and deciding how to proceed
 2. Duties are given in the form of broad goals or areas of responsibility
 3. Recognizes how to stay busy through slow periods
 4. Uses company applications to communicate and update other employees
4. Hours, Travel and Physical Requirements:
 1. Work weekdays, weekends, early mornings/evenings and possibly overnights
 2. Work in a standing position for long periods of time
 3. Request time off two weeks in advance
 4. Ability to lift up to 120 lbs
 5. Ability to work in heat, cold and wet
 6. Physically able and willing to drive a forklift with training
 7. Able to work from elevated surface

The town of Big Lake is a small, close-knit community with lots of tourist lake traffic during summer and steady local traffic during winter months for snowmachiners who have fun at their winter cabins. Big Lake is 40 miles north of Anchorage (largest city in Alaska), and our building is accessible by boat, jetski, car, bike, foot, kayak, airplane...you name it, people have made their way to us on it so far! With gorgeous lakefront views and an already-growing support from our community, this is going to be THE new destination brewery/restaurant right on Big Lake. Check us out on Facebook to get a better feel of who we are as a company and how far we've already come in the past four months since we opened the doors, and let's build something awesome together!!

Please send your resume, work experience, and a short description about yourself to morgan@susitnabrewing.com. Cheers!