The Assistant Director is one of the most vital parts on any film set, and really keeps the shoot on track and focused. They take care of all the logistics so that the director can focus on making the vision for the film come to life. Essentially, without the AD, a lot of movies would never get finished.

One of the first big jobs of the AD is to work with the director to create a realistic production schedule. It starts with the director and AD going over the storyboard, estimating how long each scene will take. From there it moves onto what equipment will we need for those shots, as well as which actors will need to be present. The skeleton of the production schedule starts forming, now it is essentially completing the beast and understanding how much money this is all going to cost.

Communication is a huge part of the AD’s job description, and is necessary to keep all parts moving in harmony. The AD is basically the manager of the set, keeping everyone in order and on track, as well as coordinating all separate entities together at the right time to get everything needed for the shot. If the AD doesn’t communicate when and where the crew needs to be/ there props need to be, then the director doesn’t have everything he needs to make it the best possible shot; resulting in a very angry director, production house, and audience. The AD has to be incredible responsible, efficient, great at communicating, and works hard until the shoot wraps.

You cant shoot a film without the actors, and when it comes to actors, most responsibility lands on the AD. First and foremost, the AD is responsible for creating the daily call sheet. This sheet tells every single person on set when they need to be present, and for how long, including the actors. It is the AD’s job to estimate how long they will be needed for to get the proper shots, as well as to have the right actors at the right time. Secondly, the AD is responsible for the health and safety of the actors when they are on set. They need to have proper food and water, first aid and emergency response ready, as well as any personal health need the actors have; all falls into the lap of the AD.

On larger sets, they may be many sub categories of Assistant directors, with many other specific jobs to help out the 1st AD. But all in all, the AD is really hear plan out how long and what it takes to shoot the scenes, gets everyone in place and on time to make those scenes come to reality, and keeps everyone in check to keep the set functioning like a well oiled machine. AD’s are really the constant driving force that allows the directors creative vision to keep moving, and allows the film to be done on time adhering to the closest possible version of the directors vision. Basically without the AD, many less movies would be made as well as they are.