

# Event Planner

Turn a budget and a date into a room full of people who think it ran itself.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$59,000**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$37k to \$99k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**1 to 4 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Moderate**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**No**

anyone can do it

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Event companies, hotels, universities, associations, corpora...**

## How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12  
Run things: school dances, fundraisers, tournaments, a club. That is a portfolio and it counts.
- 2 Event or hospitality program** 1 to 4 years  
A 1-year certificate, a 2-year diploma, or a 4-year hospitality, tourism or business degree. Most include a work placement.
- 3 Volunteer and intern on real events** During school  
Festivals, conferences and charity galas all take volunteers and hire from them. This is how most planners actually get in.
- 4 Coordinator job** 2 to 3 years  
Registration, vendors, timelines and setup for someone else's event. Two to three years here teaches you everything.
- 5 Planner, then senior planner** Year 3 onward  
Owning the budget and the design of the event. Optionally add the Certified Meeting Professional designation.

## Pros and cons

- + You see your work happen in front of you in one day
- + Short, affordable training and an open door for volunteers
- + Every event is different and the field is genuinely social
- Long hours in event weeks, including nights and weekends
- Stressful in a specific way: the date does not move
- Starting pay is low and internships are often unpaid

## Good to know

### There is a global certification, and it is not easy

The Certified Meeting Professional designation from the Events Industry Council has been running for more than 30 years and is held by over 13,000 people in more than 40 countries. You need docume...

### The run sheet is the real product

Every serious event runs on a minute-by-minute document listing who does what, when, and who to call when it fails. Guests never see it. A planner is mostly judged on how good that document is at 4pm...

## Optional boosts

Conferences and association meetings. Corporate and incentive events. Trade shows and exhibitions. Virtual and hybrid events.

### Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Event Planner in Canada, wages (updated Nov 19, 2025)  
Events Industry Council: Certified Meeting Professional programme  
Meeting Professionals International, with chapters across Canada  
Smart Serve Ontario: responsible alcohol service training

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/event-planner>



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