

Hospitality Career Evidence Guide



NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Compare three hospitality careers

All pay figures are **May 2024 U.S. medians**, not DFW pay or starting pay. Outlook covers **2024-2034**. Annual openings include new jobs and openings created when workers leave an occupation.

CAREER	WHAT THE WORKER DOES	COMMON PREPARATION	CURRENT NATIONAL EVIDENCE
Chef or Head Cook	Plans menus, prepares food, supervises kitchen staff, checks quality and sanitation, and orders supplies	High school diploma is typical; 5 or more years of related experience is common; culinary programs and apprenticeships are other routes	\$60,990 median; 7% growth; about 24,400 openings each year
Lodging Manager	Coordinates guest service and hotel operations so the property is efficient and profitable	Three common routes: high school diploma plus lodging experience; associate degree or certificate; or bachelor's degree in hospitality/hotel management	\$68,130 median; 3% growth; about 5,400 openings each year
Meeting, Convention, and Event Planner	Meets with clients, plans time/location/cost, coordinates venues and services, monitors events, and reviews bills	Bachelor's degree is typical; event or hospitality experience may help	\$59,440 median; 5% growth; about 15,500 openings each year

READ THE MEASURES CORRECTLY

- **Median pay** is the middle pay among workers in the occupation. It is not beginning pay.
- **Outlook** is a national projection. It is not a promise to one student.
- **Preparation** describes a common route, not the only possible route.
- Work schedules matter. Hospitality work may include evenings, weekends, holidays, travel, or more than 40 hours near an event.

Current Irving ISD connections

Irving ISD currently lists the **School of Culinary Arts/Hospitality Services at Singley Academy**, with Culinary Arts and Hospitality Services pathways. The district also lists **Lodging and Resort Management** at Irving High School, MacArthur High School, and Nimitz High School. Singley's current CTE page identifies **FireBird Cafe Catering** as a student-run business.

These are opportunities to investigate. The page does not guarantee admission, a certification, a job, or a salary.

SOURCES CHECKED AUGUST 10, 2026

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Chefs and Head Cooks*: bls.gov/ooh/food-preparation-and-serving/chefs-and-head-cooks.htm
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Lodging Managers*: bls.gov/ooh/management/lodging-managers.htm
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners*: bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/meeting-convention-and-event-planners.htm
- Irving ISD, *High School CTE* and *Singley Academy* program pages: irvingisd.net/departments-services/career-and-technical-education-cte/high-school-cte

QUICK EVIDENCE CHECK

Career with the highest median in this set: _____

Career with the most projected annual openings: _____

One preparation difference that matters to a student:

One schedule or work-condition tradeoff:
