

# Entertainment and Recreation Managers

SOC: 11-9072 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$77,180**  
Median Salary

**43,200**  
Employment

**+8.0%**  
Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** Bachelor's degree

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Low Risk** - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

## ■■ Work-Life Balance

**8.7/10** - Excellent work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	Investigative	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Business skills, Communication skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Organizational skills, Problem-solving skills

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Entertainment and Recreation Managers are organizational leaders who plan, direct, and coordinate **operations, programs, and facilities that provide leisure, entertainment, and recreational experiences**. They ensure venues, events, and programs run smoothly, safely, and profitably while delivering engaging experiences for the public. Their work blends business management, customer experience, and creative programming.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy leadership, event coordination, and managing people and operations in dynamic, public-facing environments.

## What Do Entertainment and Recreation Managers Do?

Entertainment and recreation managers oversee daily operations and long-term planning for leisure-based organizations.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning and coordinating recreational programs or entertainment events
- Managing staff schedules, hiring, and supervision
- Overseeing facility operations, safety, and maintenance
- Developing budgets, pricing, and revenue strategies
- Coordinating with vendors, performers, or partners
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations and policies
- Evaluating programs and improving customer experiences

## Types of Entertainment and Recreation Management Roles

Managers may work in a variety of leisure and entertainment settings:

- Recreation Center Managers: Oversee community or fitness-based facilities.
- Amusement and Attraction Managers: Manage theme parks, arcades, or attractions.
- Sports and Recreation Managers: Coordinate leagues, tournaments, or athletic programs.
- Event and Venue Managers: Run theaters, arenas, or live entertainment spaces.
- Resort and Leisure Managers: Oversee recreational activities at resorts or vacation destinations.

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Entertainment and recreation managers combine operational oversight with people skills.

### ***Core Professional Skills***

### ***Personal Qualities That Matter***

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires management experience and relevant education:

- Bachelor's Degree (common): Recreation management, hospitality, business, or related fields
- Relevant Work Experience: Experience in recreation, events, or hospitality roles
- Supervisory or Management Experience: Required for advancement
- Certifications (optional): Recreation, safety, or facility management credentials
- Ongoing Training: Leadership, customer service, and risk management development

## Where Do Entertainment and Recreation Managers Work?

They are employed across public, nonprofit, and private sectors:

- Recreation and Community Centers
- Theme Parks and Attractions
- Sports Facilities and Arenas

- Resorts, Casinos, and Cruise Lines
- Nonprofit and Municipal Recreation Departments

Work schedules often include evenings, weekends, and holidays.

## How Much Do Entertainment and Recreation Managers Earn?

Earnings vary by organization size, location, and scope of responsibility:

- Entry or Mid-Level Managers: Typically earn professional management salaries
- Experienced or Senior Managers: Often earn higher compensation
- Large Venue or Resort Managers: May earn premium pay due to complexity

Compensation may include bonuses, benefits, or performance incentives.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career can be demanding due to long hours, public-facing responsibilities, and the need to manage staff, safety, and customer expectations simultaneously. The challenge lies in balancing operational efficiency with enjoyable, high-quality experiences.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy leading teams and coordinating events
- Like working in lively, people-centered environments
- Are organized and comfortable with responsibility
- Can handle variable schedules and busy periods
- Want a career focused on leisure, fun, and community engagement

## How to Prepare Early

- Gain experience in recreation, hospitality, or event roles
- Develop leadership and customer service skills
- Learn basic budgeting and operations management
- Participate in sports, arts, or community programs
- Explore degrees or certifications in recreation or hospitality management

**Entertainment and recreation managers create the spaces and programs where people relax, play, and connect—transforming organization, leadership, and creativity into memorable experiences that enrich communities and everyday life.**