

**ME PRODUCTIONS**

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## Take me away

(And feed me, too.)  
Careers in the tourism, culinary arts  
and travel industries are hot for the  
adventurous

By Amy Covington

### Party, anyone?

Everyone loves a good party—especially the folks at Miami's ME Productions. With such clients as E! Wild TV, BMG Music, Pepsi, NASCAR and P. Diddy, they better know how to raise the roof. ME Productions handle everything from themed corporate parties and destination management to private, intimate parties.

This industry offers a multitude of positions, and according to Linda Hamburger, manager of marketing communications at ME Productions, you just have to figure out what you want to make your niche. "Basically, you need to decide what you love," Hamburger says. "Do you want to do baking, design, selling, work on the hotel side? Do you want to work with people, one-on-one, or behind the scenes?"

If corporate life isn't for you, there are plenty of hands-on jobs, such as catering, being a DJ, doing carpentry for sets, driving trucks and arranging lighting and sound.



Linda Hamburger  
PR Director



Does planning a photo scavenger hunt in Key West sound like fun? Destination management is one of the perks of the job for Ted Boyd, executive sales and manager at ME.

"You don't get into this business not to go to the party and to be involved with the people," Boyd says. But he says, "you have to sacrifice a lot of social time. This is definitely not a 40-hour workweek job. It can get stressful. Say a party starts at 6, and the truck breaks down and you have to set the party up in 30 minutes. But there are a lot of fun aspects. It can be glamorous. You get to go to five-star resorts. When the client lets you run the gamut of what you design, it's incredible."

If you're interested in event planning, Hamburger recommends looking for internship and networking opportunities and joining organizations that offer low fees to students. There is also a certification program that, upon completion, qualifies you as a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP). In order to sit for the exam, however, you must work full time for at least three years with a wide variety of meeting-planning experience.