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SALARY GUIDE 2026 · FOR JOB SEEKERS

Live Event Operations

What we're seeing from 499 live event operations people who applied with us since March 2026.

$118K
Typical pay ask
based on 413 people

61%
Have 10 or more years in live events
based on 495 people

99%
Comfortable with 50% travel
based on 494 people

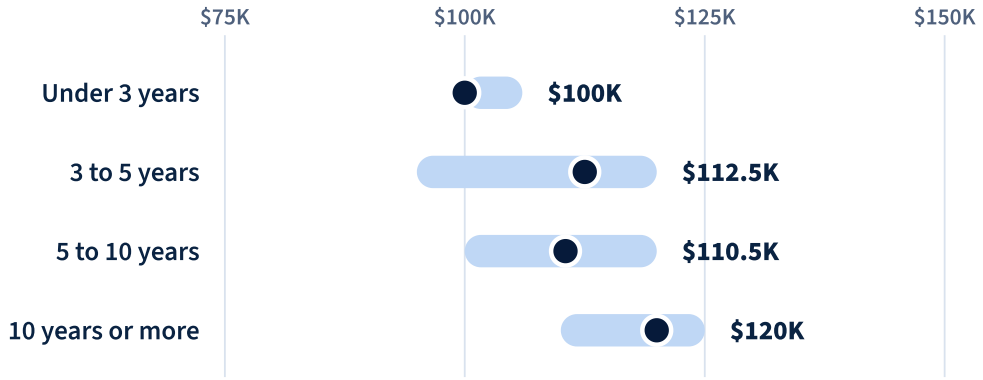
47%
Have managed a $1M+ budget
based on 495 people

Built from 499 job applications and questionnaires people filled out with NorthPoint Search Group (March–August 2026) and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. This is what our own applicants told us. It is not a survey of the whole job market.

PAY

What they're asking to be paid

Desired base salary by years of experience, based on 411 people who told us what they want in their next job. The bar is the middle half of answers. The dot is the typical ask (the median).



Across everyone who answered, the typical ask is $118K, and the middle half asks for $100K to $125K (based on 413 people).

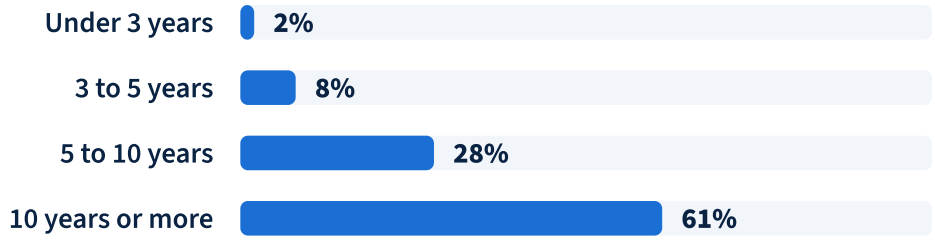
Each row is one experience group. "People" is how many answered. Groups with fewer than 5 people aren't shown.

YEARS IN LIVE EVENTS	PEOPLE	MIDDLE HALF	TYPICAL ASK
Under 3 years	8	$100K – $106K	**$100K**
3 to 5 years	38	$95K – $120K	**$112.5K**
5 to 10 years	120	$100K – $120K	**$110.5K**
10 years or more	245	$110K – $125K	**$120K**

EXPERIENCE

Years in live event operations

Based on 495 people who answered.



ROLE AT EVENTS

Their role during events

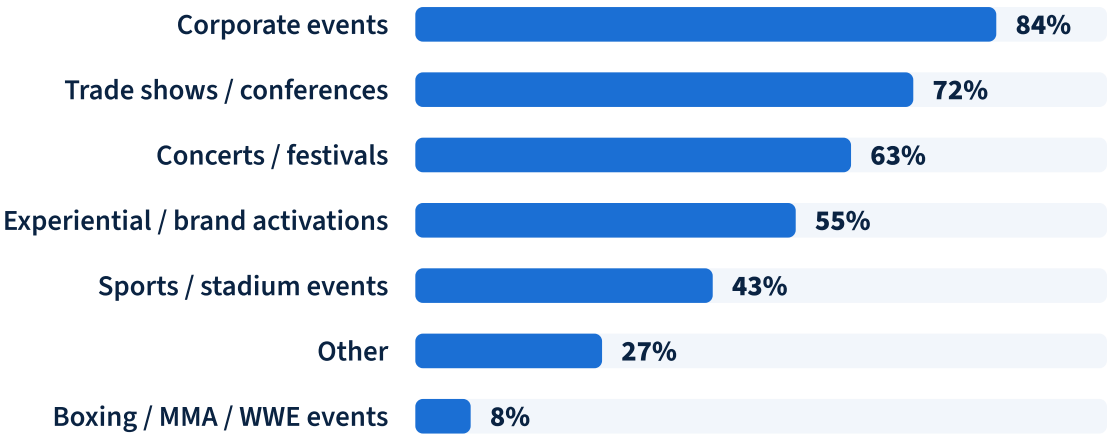
Based on 493 people who answered. Many picked more than one, so the bars add up to more than 100%.



EVENTS

Kinds of events they've run

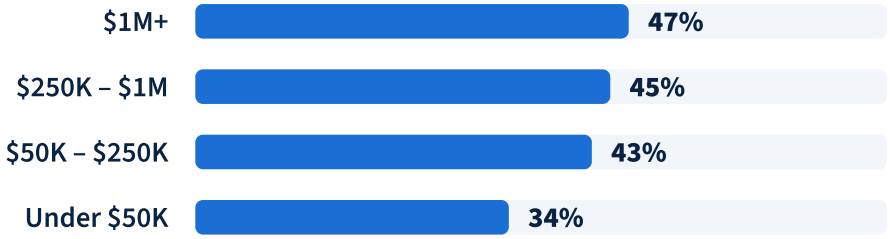
Based on 493 people who answered. Many picked more than one, so the bars add up to more than 100%.



BUDGETS

Biggest budgets they've managed

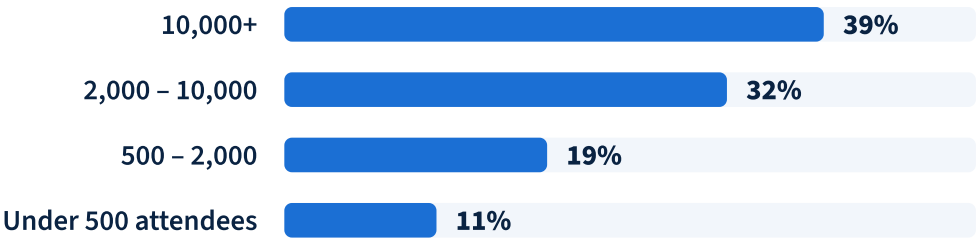
Based on 495 people who answered. Many picked more than one, so the bars add up to more than 100%.



EVENT SIZE

Largest event they've run

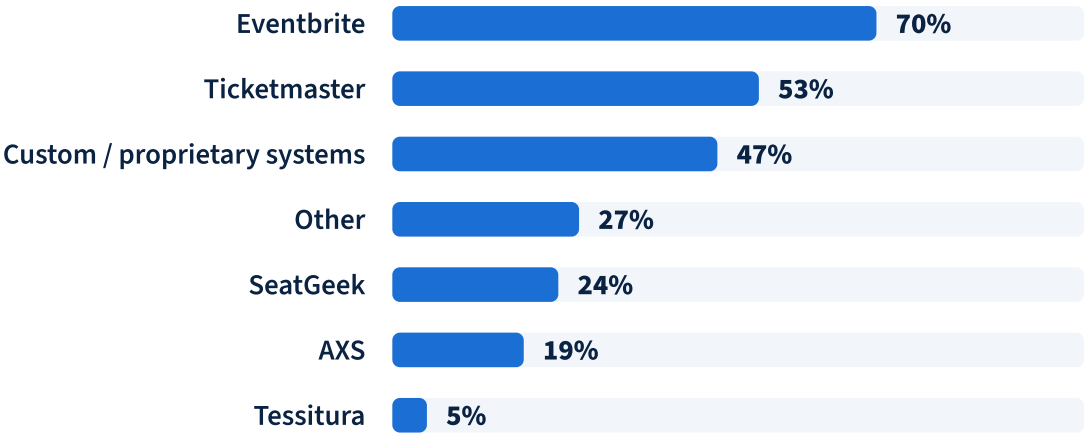
Based on 493 people who answered.



TICKETING

Ticketing systems they've used

Based on 448 people who answered. Many picked more than one, so the bars add up to more than 100%.



Yes or no questions

Comfortable with 50% travel	**99%**	based on 494 people

FOR COMPARISON

Government pay numbers

Median yearly pay, metro Atlanta, May 2025 (BLS). These cover every experience level and every employer, so they can run lower than what experienced people ask us for.

General and operations managers	**$111,410**
Producers and directors (incl. live production)	**$79,950**
Meeting, convention and event planners	**$50,140**

TURNOVER

How often people leave

Departures per 100 jobs in a year (all separations, 2025), from the BLS Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey.



How long people stay

Median years with their current employer, January 2026 (BLS).

Management (incl. operations managers)	**6.1 years**
All occupations	**4.1 years**

What that means for you

In arts, entertainment and recreation, about 73 of every 100 jobs come open over a year. People leave all year long, so new openings keep coming, not just in January.

WHAT TO DO

Ways to get paid what you're worth

1. **Know your number.**
   Find your years of experience in the pay table. For 10 years or more, the middle half of asks is $110K to $125K (based on 245 people). Decide the lowest number you'd take before the first call.

2. **Lead with the size of what you've run.**
   47% have managed a budget of $1M or more, and 39% have run an event of 10,000+ people (based on 495 people). Put your biggest budget and crowd in the first lines.

3. **Say you'll travel.**
   99% are comfortable with 50% travel (based on 494 people). If you are too, say so up front.

4. **Line up the next job before the season.**
   Event teams staff up at the same time every year. Reach out early.

5. **Go to the hiring manager.**
   When you apply online, your résumé goes to HR first. Find the person you'd work for and send a short note with a 30-second video intro.

• MYZIPAPPLY

Don’t just apply. Connect.

When you apply online, your résumé goes to HR, not the hiring manager. With MyZipApply you record a 30-second video intro, find the hiring managers at the companies you want, and our AI writes your outreach. You send it. Then MyZipApply reminds you to follow up on day 3, 7 and 14.

Record your video intro → myzipapply.com

METHOD AND SOURCES

Everything on these pages comes from job applications and screening questionnaires that people filled out for NorthPoint Search Group between March 24, 2026 and August 25, 2026: 499 people, one form per person (their newest). Pay is the desired base salary each person gave us; the middle half is the 25th to 75th percentile, rounded to $500. Every number says how many people it rests on. Groups with fewer than 5 people are left out, and no one's individual answer is shown.

Everyone here applied with us for a live event operations manager job. They also count in our Operations & Admin guide.

- BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025, Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA.
- BLS Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, 2025 annual averages (released March 13, 2026), Tables 20 and 22.
- BLS Employee Tenure, median years with current employer by occupation, January 2026, Table 6.

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