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## **May 2004 Camp Hospitality & Hospitality Playoffs Area pre-teens experience, compete in hotel industry camp**

Beginning at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, more than 500 area students will be checking into hotels and motels across Greater Houston - not at the front desk or dining table but behind the scenes as Camp Hospitality opens to the industry's workforce of tomorrow. Not only with the students spend the day learning and experiencing, they will also compete to go on to a "hospitality playoffs" finale on Friday, May 14.

This year is the largest ever for both the event, both in numbers of students and participating hotels - doubling the 2003 numbers.

Camp Hospitality, sponsored by the Hotel & Motel Association of Greater Houston and The Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston, is an annual program that brings in hundreds of area students to introduce them to the many career and job opportunities in the hospitality industry.

Open to boys and girls, ages 10-11, Camp Hospitality brings small groups of middle-school students to participating hotels, restaurants and related hospitality businesses across the Greater Houston area. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., each group of 10-15 tours their assigned hotel and then learn the many aspects of what it takes to operate the property.

And while the subject may be serious, learning doesn't have to be. During the day, the students will participate in such things as napkin-folding contests and pillowcase stuffing races. It's the winners from those competitions, about 50 students, who will all meet at 9 a.m. Friday, May 14 at the HISD Administration Building, 3830 Richmond, for the hospitality playoffs. Here, with napkins flying and pillows crunching, they'll compete for prizes against each other and the clock.

This year some two dozen hotels will serve as Camp Hospitality Campuses. They include:

Best Western Park Place Suites on Old Spanish Trail, Crowne Plaza Downtown, DoubleTree Allen Center. DoubleTree Guest Suites, Four Seasons Downtown, Hampton Inn Stafford, Hilton Americas, Hotel Derek, Hotel Icon, Hyatt Regency Airport, Jesse H. Jones Rotary House on Holcombe, LaQuinta Inn Galleria, Marriott Intercontinental Airport, Marriott Hobby and the Marriott Medical Center, Omni Houston, Park Plaza Reliant Center, Renaissance Hotel Greenway, Residence Inn Galleria, The Sam Houston Hotel, Woodlands Resort & Conference Center and Wyndham Greenspoint.

For more information, call the HMAGH at 713-437-5230 or e-mail the association, [director@houstonhotels.org](mailto:director@houstonhotels.org)