

BE PART OF THE YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP MOVEMENT



As a parent, you want the best for your child, including the best possible start to their working life. Youth Apprenticeship allows your high school student to gain essential employability skills and knowledge for high-demand jobs while earning a paycheck in a safe, secure environment.

Youth apprenticeship can put your child on the right path to a promising career.

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS CAN BE FOR EVERY STUDENT

It's not a question of apprenticeship or college. Your student can do both!

Whether your high schooler already has plans to attend college, would like to attend but might not have the means, or simply isn't sure what their future holds, youth apprenticeship can provide the experience and maturity they need. Youth apprenticeship can help them make the college experience more meaningful, make higher education more affordable and accessible, and ultimately provide them insight into what it will take to reach their career goals. Youth apprenticeship can offer more than a straight line to a career. It can create a clear vision of how higher education can enhance and further that career.

Youth apprenticeship also gives an advantage to your student when they graduate. Not only will they have the credentials necessary to qualify for the job they want, but your student will also have the meaningful work experience and a professional network to get them where they want to be—regardless of their path.

Benefits of youth apprenticeship

Your high school student will:

- Earn a paycheck while they learn. Your student will have two years of paid employment while they participate in the program.
- Gain invaluable knowledge and insight through mentoring from an industry professional.
- Strengthen their academic skills and, in turn, their academic success. High school completion is a requirement of the program.
- Earn one year of college credit from their local technical college.
- Gain a nationally recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Enhance their employability with two years of work experience and a grasp of critical sought-after work skills.

IT TAKES A COMMITMENT

Like most incredible achievements, it won't come easy. A commitment is necessary to get your child where they want to go.

Time: The program is a two-year commitment. Once hired as a youth apprentice, your student will make a good faith, two-year commitment to their employer and the corresponding certificate program at their local technical college. Even if a youth apprentice moves through the college curriculum at an accelerated pace, companies are hiring with the expectation that the apprentice will be with them for the entire two years of the program.

Initiative: Your student must be hired by one of the local participating employers to become a youth apprentice. They will need to apply for the available apprenticeship positions and be prepared to go on job interviews. They will also need to regularly check their phone and email messages for correspondence from potential employers. The local participating employers make all youth apprenticeship hiring decisions.

Competition: The hiring process to obtain an apprenticeship is a competitive one. Not every student who seeks an apprenticeship opportunity will get one. Often, business partners receive many more applications than they have available positions, so only those students that stand out as eager, capable and passionate earn the distinction of becoming an apprentice. There is no forced placement. Students who become apprentices have earned it—it's an accomplishment, it's prestigious, and it's where companies are going to find their future workforce.

Reliability: Reliable transportation is a must. Youth apprentices must have dependable transportation to work and their technical college campus for classes. As a result, a parent or other responsible licensed driver may need to provide rides to work and school.

Good work ethic: Students must demonstrate a good work ethic—grades and attendance matter. Youth apprentices are required to be successful in their academic and technical courses. Students are also expected to attend every class session and complete all assignments by their due date. Those taking online courses must be active participants and meet all deadlines and requirements. Youth apprentices who fail a required course will be responsible for the cost of retaking it, and failing grades may jeopardize their continuation in the program and their eligibility to receive financial assistance.

PARTICIPATION IS AT LITTLE TO NO COST

In most cases, the tuition associated with the college credit component of a youth apprenticeship is covered. There may be some out-of-pocket expenses such as transportation, background checks, physicals, uniforms, appropriate footwear, and exam fees. However, there may be funding assistance to cover some of these costs as well.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR YOUTH APPRENTICE

As a parent, you can be your child's biggest coach, influencer, and advocate. You can help them through the youth apprenticeship process by encouraging them to put their best effort into the application process. You can remind them to check both their email and phone messages regularly. You can ensure they have reliable transportation to school and work. You can periodically check in with your student about how they are doing in class. Most importantly, you can be proud of their initiative, hard work, and significant accomplishment.



TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT

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**The Catawba Regional
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