

Construction Industry Careers, Not Just Jobs



Sierrah Kienitz, ironworker

Local 29 Apprenticeship Available

Sierrah Kienitz had just graduated from high school and was working at a fast food business when she had the opportunity to join Ironworkers Local 29. That was three years ago and it's changed Sierrah's life. "I'm changed both physically and mentally. The craft has pretty much taught me how to be mature," Sierrah said.

Local 29's Business Manager Jason Fussell says this is not an unusual story. As the local reaches out to make welcome people who just need an opportunity to, in many cases, join the middle class. "Ironworkers Local 29 has been successfully working to increase diversity within our membership for years resulting in one of the most diverse locals within our International," says Fussell. "We recognize that a diverse workforce is not only beneficial to our trade, bringing in a variety of perspectives and creativity, but also highly beneficial to the community."

Currently Local 29 membership includes 24% people of color and almost 40% of the current apprenticeship students are diverse.

Kevin Crocker, Local 29 Apprenticeship Coordinator cuts right to the chase. "New apprentices starting today will

be paid \$25.96 an hour plus benefits and will receive a 5% raise every six months as they meet the program's requirements. Journeymen earn \$43.27 an hour plus \$33.34 in benefits. Working 2,000 hours in the year and you will earn \$86,540 in wages plus \$66,680 in benefits."

Crocker continues, "The first step in joining Local 29 is to visit our training facility to fill out an application. We are located at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle in Portland. We take applications every Wednesday from 7:00 to 2:30 and you must be 18 years of age."

Apprenticeships provide the opportunity to gain education while earning a living wage, establishing a career path and beginning work toward retirement at an early age, without incurring thousands

of dollars of debt. Apprenticeships are the foundation of our construction industry and provide the highest quality workforce. The future shortage of skilled labor for the building trades is worrisome for the construction industry and we need to encourage the current and next generations to see if this is a path that fits them.

Jason Fussell concludes, "If you're interested in ironwork we want to help you find a long, successful and safe career. If this isn't for you, then I encourage you to go to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries website (www.oregon.gov/boli) where there is information on dozens of apprenticeships. Find your passion, and then find an apprenticeship that will teach you the best practices for your craft while getting you started on your career."



Summer Meals now serving Multnomah County youth

Food, Friends and FUN

Free meals available across 60 locations in Multnomah County

Approximately 60 Summer Meals locations in Multnomah County are open to all community youth to drop in and eat a free meal this summer. These include parks, youth programs, Gresham Library, and apartment and mobile home communities. Some schools are open for lunch and many additional schools and camps are feeding students enrolled in summer programming.

To find a site near you, visit SummerFoodOregon.org, call 2-1-1 or text "Food" or "Comida" to 304-304. Free Summer Meals are available to all youth ages 1- 18, no paperwork required. Meals will be served on-site, so plan to stay and play. (Due to restrictions at the federal level, the program can no longer offer Grab-and-Go meals in Multnomah County as it did during the height of the pandemic).

Meals are provided through the Summer Food Service Program in a partnership among school districts, non-profit organizations and local, state and federal governments.

This program plays a crucial role in our communities by meeting the needs of youth and families. In Oregon, around one in six children are food insecure, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to enough safe and nutritious food. This rate is still significantly higher than pre-pandemic.

Hunger and food insecurity can negatively impact a child's health, social interactions, curiosity, and learning abilities. Summer Meal programs aim to address this issue. Last summer, an average of 15,815 children a day participated in Multnomah County, and over 77,000 children statewide. The availability of free meals when school is out helps families afford the increased cost of groceries and helps ensure that students return to school healthy, well nourished and prepared to learn.



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