

Youth Apprenticeship Week

May 5-11, 2024

WHAT IS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK?

This year marks the 1st National Youth Apprenticeship Week (YAW)! YAW is a nationwide celebration that highlights the benefits and value of Registered Apprenticeship program opportunities for youth, ages 16-24. Employers, educators, labor unions, and workforce professionals across the country are launching Registered Apprenticeship programs that allow youth to earn competitive wages while obtaining the relevant training and experience to start their careers. YAW is an opportunity for these stakeholders to host events to showcase how Registered Apprenticeship creates a sustainable pipeline of skilled and diverse talent across multiple industries such as cybersecurity, healthcare, gaming and graphic design, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, engineering, artificial intelligence, transportation, robotics and other in-demand occupations.

YAW is designed to increase awareness of apprenticeships among youth, educators, parents, state agencies, workforce partners, industry and to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships as a pathway to careers. YAW gives apprenticeship sponsors, career and technical education (CTE) programs, employers, labor unions, workforce agencies and other diverse partners the opportunity to showcase the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs for youth and gives youth apprentices a platform to highlight their apprenticeship experience.

CAPITALIZE ON MOMENTUM!

YAW builds on current efforts to increase participation in youth apprenticeships.

- ▶ In the last 10 years, the number of active youth apprentices increased by 118% from 119,996 to 262,221.
- ▶ DOL has awarded funding over the last few years for a variety of investments to support increasing Registered Apprenticeship program opportunities for youth. To learn more about these investments visit [Active Grants and Contracts](#) on Apprenticeship.gov.
- ▶ In March 2023, DOL launched a [Youth Employer Works Strategy](#) to help ensure there is “no wrong door” approach for youth to access good jobs and opportunities.

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WHY PARTICIPATE?

YAW gives employers, unions, apprenticeship sponsors, career, and technical education (CTE) programs, employers, labor unions, workforce agencies and other diverse partners the opportunity to showcase their programs, facilities, and youth apprentice achievements. It gives youth apprentices a platform to share their apprenticeship experience and how it has transformed their lives. It provides the public with the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship and the programs available in their communities. YAW also creates the space to continue the national dialogue on how to best use Registered Apprenticeship to provide affordable paths to secure careers and free college education without the debt associated with the traditional college model and to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the workplace.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Join Registered Apprenticeship champions from across the U.S. by hosting a Youth Apprenticeship related event or activity, signing and submitting a proclamation, or attending a YAW event in your community.

YAW EVENT IDEAS

Here are some examples of YAW events and activities that you can host to promote Youth Apprenticeships:

- ▶ Apprenticeship recruitment fairs
- ▶ Apprenticeship open houses
- ▶ Career discovery boot camps
- ▶ Hackathon competition
- ▶ Social media challenges and amplification activities
- ▶ Apprenticeship graduations
- ▶ Signing ceremonies for new programs
- ▶ Virtual tours for students
- ▶ Podcasts
- ▶ Others? Be creative, celebrate, and recruit Youth Apprentices!

To learn more about YAW 2024, add or find an event, submit a proclamation, and to access resources to help plan, promote, and enhance your own event, visit the YAW website at www.apprenticeship.gov/youth-apprenticeship-week

Explore Registered Apprenticeship Today!

Want to learn more? Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's one-stop source for all things apprenticeship: www.apprenticeship.gov or email us at apprenticeship@dol.gov.

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