



72nd ANNUAL MASONRY APPRENTICE CONTEST

(Bricklaying & Blocklaying)

DIVISION 101 - APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 01 – MASONRY

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Monday, October 19, 2026, contestant check-in starts promptly at 8:00 a.m.
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off Hillsborough Street
- **JUDGING:** Upon contest completion, a panel of masons will judge the projects according to an official rubric.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Monday, October 19, 2026, 1:30 p.m., following the completion of judging.
- **PREMIUMS:** 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Places: \$75
- Prizes donated by manufacturers and suppliers will be presented to all contestants.
- The first-place winner and their employer will be recognized with plaques at a later date.

REGISTRATION RULES & INFORMATION:

- Contest registration opens at **8:00 a.m.** on **July 15, 2026**, and closes at **11:59 p.m.** on **September 4, 2026**.
- **Access contest information and the contestant registration form:** www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events
- Contestants cannot enter themselves. Their entry forms must be submitted by their employers/program sponsors.
- The contest is limited to Registered Apprentices and Registered Pre-Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized programs.
- Preference will be given to Registered Apprentices through September 4, 2026.
 - After this date, remaining spaces will be filled by Registered Pre-Apprentices on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Contestants must be approved for contest participation by their employer, program sponsor, or the Contest Committee.
- Contestants must have completed **less than 6,000 hours of training** and must not have completed their Registered Apprenticeship or Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program prior to Monday, October 19, 2026.
- All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
- Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
- **The contest is limited to 30 qualifying contestants.** ApprenticeshipNC will maintain an alternate list of up to five contestants.

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- ApprenticeshipNC
- Calvin Brodie — Contest Committee Chair — Brodie Contractors, Inc., Raleigh
- Danks Burton — Pinnacle Masonry, Inc., Raleigh
- Doug Burton — Master of Ceremony — Whitman Masonry, Inc., Raleigh
- Ryan Shaver — NCMCA, Mount Pleasant

The State of North Carolina will require the submission of a NC Substitute W-9 prior to making any payment of \$600 or greater or any payment that results in a total of \$600 or more during one calendar year from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to any individual or entity. All exhibitors are strongly encouraged to complete and upload the NC Substitute W-9 form to prevent any delay in receiving premium prize money.

Due to entry deadline extensions by committees, some contestants, contributors, and/or sponsors may not be listed in the printed program. These individuals and organizations will be acknowledged at the awards presentation. The contest committee reserves the right to make changes prior to the contest date. Updates to any contest will be posted at www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events.

ABOUT THE CONTEST:

Held annually since 1954, the N.C. State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest promotes interest in skilled trades while showcasing the next generation of North Carolina's workforce. The contest is organized by ApprenticeshipNC, the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It brings together the state's top masonry apprentices, who compete head-to-head for first prize and the opportunity to represent North Carolina at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas.





41st ANNUAL ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE CONTEST

DIVISION 101 - APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 02 – ELECTRICAL

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Wednesday, October 21, 2026, contestant check-in starts promptly at 7:00 a.m.
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off Hillsborough Street
- **JUDGING:** Upon contest completion, a panel of judges will evaluate the projects according to an official rubric and electrical code.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 3:00 p.m., following the completion of judging.
- **PREMIUMS:** 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Places: \$75
- Tools donated by manufacturers and suppliers will be presented to all contestants.
- The first-place winner and their employer will be recognized with plaques at a later date.

REGISTRATION RULES & INFORMATION:

- Contest registration opens at **8:00 a.m.** on **July 15, 2026**, and closes at **11:59 p.m.** on **September 4, 2026**.
 - Entries will not be accepted before or after these dates. No exceptions. The date and time of each entry will be recorded when received by ApprenticeshipNC.
- **Access contest information and the contestant registration form:** www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events
- Contestants cannot enter themselves. Their entry forms must be submitted by their employers/program sponsors.
- The contest is limited to Electrician Registered Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized programs.
 - Contestants must have completed at least two years (**4,001 OJT hours and 288 related instruction hours**), but not more than four years (**8,000 OJT hours**) of training and not have received a Certificate of Completion by October 21, 2026, as certified by the Registered Apprenticeship Program sponsor/participating employer, verified by ApprenticeshipNC, and approved by the Contest Committee.
- Contestants cannot compete if they have passed any States Contracting Licensing Boards Exam or have been approved to take such an exam before the date of the competition.
- All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
- Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
- **The contest is limited to 36 qualifying contestants.** ApprenticeshipNC will maintain an alternate list of up to four contestants.

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- ApprenticeshipNC
- Industry partners and employers
- NC Electrical Contractors and Associations
- NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors
- N.C. Office of State Fire Marshal

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Due to entry deadline extensions by committees, some contestants, contributors, and/or sponsors may not be listed in the printed program. These individuals and organizations will be acknowledged at the awards presentation. The contest committee reserves the right to make changes prior to the contest date. Updates to any contest will be posted at www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events.

ABOUT THE CONTEST:

Held annually for over 40 years, the N.C. State Fair Electrical Apprentice Contest promotes interest in skilled trades while showcasing the next generation of North Carolina's workforce. The contest is organized by ApprenticeshipNC, the North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors, the NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the N.C. Office of State Fire Marshal, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and industry partners. It brings together the state's top electrical apprentices to compete head-to-head, demonstrating their skill, knowledge, and precision.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Tenders: Northern Nash High School, Rocky Mount



40th ANNUAL CARPENTRY PRE-APPRENTICE CONTEST

DIVISION 101 - PRE-APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 03 – PRE-APPRENTICE CARPENTRY

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Thursday, October 22, 2026, contestant check-in starts promptly at 7:30 a.m.
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off of Hillsborough Street
- **JUDGING:** Upon contest completion, a panel of judges will evaluate the projects according to an official rubric.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Thursday, October 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m., following the completion of judging.
- **PREMIUMS:** 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Places: \$75
- Prizes donated by manufacturers and suppliers will be presented to all contestants.
- The first-place winners and their school will be recognized with plaques at a later date.

REGISTRATION RULES & INFORMATION:

- Contest registration opens at **8:00 a.m. on July 15, 2026**, and closes at **11:59 p.m. on September 4, 2026**.
- **Access contest information:** www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events
- **NEW REQUIREMENT:** Instructors, please reach out to ApprenticeshipNC Communications Assistant Margaret Spainhour, spainhourm@nccommunitycolleges.edu, to learn about the new student eligibility criteria for this contest. Following the meeting with ApprenticeshipNC, if eligible, you will be provided with a registration link.
- Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
- All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
- To reserve a team spot without finalized Pre-Apprentice information, submit the form by September 4 and enter "TBD" for all contestant details.
- **Instructors must submit the final names of all competing team members by October 1, 2026.**
- **No substitutions will be allowed after October 1, 2026.**
 - If a team member withdraws after this deadline, the entire team will be disqualified. ApprenticeshipNC will then select a replacement team from the waiting list.
- **The contest is limited to 20 qualifying teams, with two contestants per team.** ApprenticeshipNC will maintain an alternate list.

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- ApprenticeshipNC
- Bill Whittaker — Committee Chair, DPR Construction, Raleigh
- Buddy Hughes — NC Home Builders Association, Lexington
- Eddie Reeves — ApprenticeshipNC (Ret.)
- Grayson Williams — Lowe's Companies, Inc.
- Judy Dinelle — 84 Lumber, Asheville
- Kep Paylor — NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh
- Linda Rowland — CooperTools, Raleigh
- Michele Lewter — Connect for Success NC
- Tim Eldridge — Educational Services Unlimited

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Due to entry deadline extensions by committees, some contestants, contributors, and/or sponsors may not be listed in the printed program. These individuals and organizations will be acknowledged at the awards presentation. The contest committee reserves the right to make changes prior to the contest date. Updates to any contest will be posted at www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events.

ABOUT THE CONTEST:

Held annually for 40 years, the N.C. State Fair Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Contest promotes interest in skilled trades and highlights the next generation of North Carolina's workforce. The contest is organized by ApprenticeshipNC, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and industry partners and employers. It brings together the state's top carpentry pre-apprentices to compete head-to-head to demonstrate their technical skill, knowledge, and precision.



38th ANNUAL PLUMBER APPRENTICE CONTEST

DIVISION 101 - APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 04 – PLUMBING

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Friday, October 23, 2026, contestant check-in starts promptly at 8:00 a.m.
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off of Hillsborough Street
- **JUDGING:** Upon contest completion, a panel of judges will evaluate the projects according to an official rubric.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Friday, October 23, 2026, 3:00 p.m., following the completion of judging.
- **PREMIUMS:** 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Places: \$75
- Tools donated by manufacturers and suppliers will be presented to all contestants.
- The first-place winner and their employer will be recognized with plaques at a later date.

REGISTRATION RULES & INFORMATION:

- Contest registration opens at **8:00 a.m. on July 15, 2026**, and closes at **11:59 p.m. on September 4, 2026**.
- **Access contest information and the contestant registration form:** www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events
- Contestants cannot enter themselves. Their entry forms must be submitted by their employers/program sponsors.
- The contest is limited to Registered Apprentices and Registered Pre-Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized plumber/pipefitter programs.
- Preference will be given to Registered Apprentices through September 4, 2026.
 - After this date, remaining spaces will be filled by Registered Pre-Apprentices on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Contestants must be approved for contest participation by their employer, program sponsor, or the Contest Committee.
- Contestants must have completed **less than 8,000 hours of training** and must not have completed their Registered Apprenticeship or Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program prior to Friday, October 23, 2026.
- All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
- Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
- **Contest is limited to the first 20 qualifying applicants.**

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- ApprenticeshipNC
- Dale Dawson — Executive Director of the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors, Raleigh
- Dale Pruitt — Town of Wake Forest Plumbing Inspector, Wake Forest
- Ed Burleson — Guilford Plumbing Supply, Greensboro & Raleigh
- Jim Lawson — City of High Point Chief Plumbing Inspector, High Point
- Paul Sandy — City of Raleigh Chief Plumbing Inspector, Raleigh (Ret.)

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ABOUT THE CONTEST:

Now in its 38th year, the N.C. State Fair Plumber Apprentice Contest promotes interest in skilled trades and highlights the next generation of North Carolina's workforce. The contest is organized by ApprenticeshipNC, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and industry partners and employers. It brings together the state's top plumber apprentices compete head-to-head to demonstrate their technical skill, knowledge, and precision.



22nd ANNUAL HVAC/R APPRENTICE CONTEST

DIVISION 101 - APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 06 – HV/AC-R

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Friday, October 23, 2026, contestant check-in starts promptly at 7:30 a.m.
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off of Hillsborough Street
- **JUDGING:** Upon contest completion, a panel of judges will evaluate the projects according to an official rubric.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Friday, October 23, 2026, 3:00 p.m., following the completion of judging.
- **PREMIUMS:** 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Places: \$75
- Tools donated by manufacturers and suppliers will be presented to all contestants.
- The first-place winner and their employer will be recognized with plaques at a later date.

REGISTRATION RULES & INFORMATION:

- Contest registration opens at **8:00 a.m.** on **July 15, 2026**, and closes at **11:59 p.m.** on **September 4, 2026**.
- **Access contest information and the contestant registration form:** www.apprenticeshipnc.com/events
- Contestants cannot enter themselves. Their entry forms must be submitted by their employers/program sponsors.
- The contest is limited to Registered Apprentices and Registered Pre-Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized HVAC/R programs.
- Preference will be given to Registered Apprentices through September 4, 2026.
 - After this date, remaining spaces will be filled by Registered Pre-Apprentices on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Contestants must be approved for contest participation by their employer, program sponsor, or the Contest Committee.
- Contestants must have completed **less than 8,000 hours of training** and must not have completed their Registered Apprenticeship or Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program prior to Friday, October 23, 2026.
- All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
- Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
- **Contest limited to 12 qualified contestants.** ApprenticeshipNC will maintain an alternate list.

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- ApprenticeshipNC
- Bill Spidel — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement (Ret.)
- Johnny Smith — Comfort Solutions HVAC Inc.
- John Todaro — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement
- John Turnage — Umpire Technologies Group
- Kevin Ryan — Town of Cary Inspections

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ABOUT THE CONTEST:

Held annually for over 20 years, the N.C. State Fair HVAC/R Apprentice Contest promotes interest in skilled trades and highlights the next generation of North Carolina's workforce. The contest is organized by ApprenticeshipNC, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and industry partners and employers. It brings together the state's top HVAC/R apprentices compete head-to-head to demonstrate their technical skill, knowledge, and precision.





SkillsUSA COSMETOLOGY CONTESTS



DIVISION 101 - APPRENTICE CONTESTS
Class 07 – COSMETOLOGY

Contestants must register online at
Register.SkillsUSA.org on or before October 10, 2026

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- **DATE:** Saturday, October 24, 2026
- **LOCATION:** N.C. State Fair, behind the Jim Graham Building off of Hillsborough Street
- **COMPETITIONS:**
 - Total Look / Fantasy Hair & Make-Up
 - Total Evening Elegance
 - Anything But Hair
 - Nail Art Design
 - Total Style
- **ELIGIBILITY:** Limited to students enrolled in Cosmetology programs in NC Community Colleges and NC Public High Schools
- **JUDGING:** Will occur throughout the competition. A contestant “Runway Show” will take place at approximately 2:00 p.m.
- **AWARDS:** Presented Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
- **FAIR PREMIUMS:** The following fair premiums represent the total premium pool for all 5 Cosmetology contests and will be subdivided accordingly. Each contest will award premiums for 1st and 2nd place.
 - 1st Place: \$325, 2nd Place: \$225, 3rd Place: \$175, 4th Place: \$125, 5th Place: \$100, 6th-10th Place: \$75

CONTEST PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Morris “Boz” Boswell - Retired Cosmetology Instructor
- Paul Heidepriem - Director, SkillsUSA, North Carolina

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