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N.C. STATE FAIR **APPRENTICE CONTESTS**

BUILDING FUTURES, SHOWCASING TALENT.

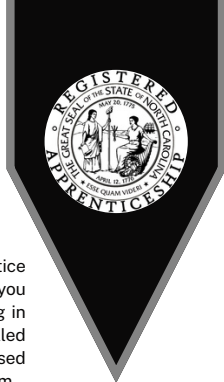
APPRENTICESHIP **NC**
NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Welcome Message



Welcome to the 2025 N.C. State Fair Apprentice Contests. On behalf of ApprenticeshipNC, thank you for supporting the talented apprentices competing in this year's events and for championing the skilled trades. As the State Apprenticeship Agency housed under the North Carolina Community College System, we are honored to once again host these prestigious contests.

The N.C. State Fair Apprentice Contests provide a unique platform to showcase individuals enrolled in Registered Apprenticeship Programs across our state. From masons and electricians to carpenters and HVAC/R technicians, these apprentices and pre-apprentices represent the strength, resilience, and future of North Carolina's workforce. They are a testament to what hard work, dedication, and high-quality training can achieve.

Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) are the gold standard of work-based learning, combining on-the-job training with related classroom instruction, structured wage progression, and nationally recognized credentials. At ApprenticeshipNC, we are proud to register, grow, and ensure the quality and safety of RAPs throughout North Carolina. While the skilled trades remain a cornerstone of Registered Apprenticeship, we are also seeing exciting growth in other key industries such as healthcare, education, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

Registered Apprenticeship is a win-win-win:

- Good for the apprentice
- Good for the employer
- Good for the community

Thank you for celebrating these outstanding apprentices with us and for recognizing the critical role they play in shaping our state's economic future.

Sincerely,

Chris Harrington, Ph.D., MBA
State Director

ApprenticeshipNC — The State Apprenticeship Agency
Economic Development Division — NC Community College System

71st Annual

Masonry Apprentice Contest

Bricklaying & Blocklaying

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 20, 2025



8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Contestant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Safety Briefing

Jiles Manning, Representative, North
Carolina Department of Labor

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Masonry Apprentice Contest

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Contest Judging

1:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

Calvin Brodie, Contest Committee Chair

Doug Burton, Master of Ceremonies

Steven W. Troxler, N.C. Commissioner of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

ApprenticeshipNC Representative

CONTEST RULES

- Contestants must be currently enrolled in an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program.
- Contestant entry forms must be submitted by an employer or program sponsor affiliated with an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized program.
- Entry forms must be submitted no later than **September 5, 2025**.
- Preference will be given to Registered Apprentices through September 5, 2025. After this date, available spots will be filled by high school masonry pre-apprentices and students on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Contestants must not have completed their Registered Apprenticeship Program prior to Monday, October 20, 2025.
- First-place winners from previous contests ineligible to compete.
- The contest is limited to 30 qualified contestants and 5 alternates.
- Contestants are required to bring their own equipment and a full set of tools, including:
 - Trowel, level, square, hammer, water can, standard and modular rule, and concave jointers.
- Contestants must also provide and wear appropriate personal protective equipment:
 - cotton gloves, hard hat, safety glasses, and proper safety shoes (no sneakers).
- A mortar pan will be provided for each contestant.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Calvin Brodie — Contest Committee Chair — Brodie Contractors, Inc., Raleigh

Danks Burton — Pinnacle Masonry, Inc., Raleigh

Danny Boykin — ApprenticeshipNC, Eastern Region

Doug Burton — Master of Ceremony — Whitman Masonry, Inc., Raleigh

Ryan Shaver — NCMCA, Mount Pleasant

PANEL OF JUDGES

Masonry Contractors of North Carolina

BASIS OF JUDGING

Plumb.....	20 points
Level.....	20 points
Measurements.....	20 points
Square and Range.....	20 points
Production.....	20 points
Tooling and Neatness.....	20 points
Manipulation of Tools and Safety.....	20 points
Full Head Joints.....	20 points
Correct Design.....	20 points

Note: All judging is final

Total of 180 points

Plaques will be awarded to the first-place winner and their employer.

Registered Apprentices will be eligible for State Fair Premiums.

Pre-apprentices will be eligible for prizes designated by the State Fair committee.

N.C. STATE FAIR PREMIUMS

First Place Winner	\$325
Second Place Winner	\$225
Third Place Winner	\$175
Fourth Place Winner	\$125
Fifth Place Winner	\$100
Sixth - Tenth Place Winners Each	\$75

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

Adams Products Co., Morrisville
Amerimix, Morrisville
ApprenticeshipNC
Brodie Contractors, Inc., Raleigh
Custom Brick Co., Raleigh
Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh
Huntley Brothers Co. Inc.
Kirby Construction Services, Conover
Marshalltown Trowels, Marshalltown, Iowa
McAdams Masonry, Elon
McGee Brothers Co.
Pinnacle Masonry, Cary
The Raleigh Chapter of the NCMCA
Stabila Levels, North America
Triangle Brick, Merry Oaks
Whitman Masonry Inc., Raleigh

71st Annual

Masonry Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Blake Moore — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Brandt Huntley — Huntley Brothers Co. Inc.
Chanler Whitaker — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Christian Palmiere — Huntley Brothers Co. Inc.
Colsen Palmer — Ridenhour Masonry Inc.
Dae'Qwon Boston — Manning Masonry, Inc.
David Claeys — Rush Masonry Management, LLC
David Hernandez-Herrera — Whitman Masonry
Easton McGee — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Gavin Oliver — Michael J. Rogers Masonry, Inc.
Jacob Helms — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Jacob Gazaway — Michael J. Rogers Masonry, Inc.
James Ryan Gaither — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Jamie Pichardo-Serrano — Griffin Masonry
Jared Moran — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Joshua Holder — Whitman Masonry
Kevin Lagos — Rush Masonry Management, LLC
Khalib Kennedy — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Lucas Kneessi — Huntley Brothers Co. Inc.
Nathan Wilson — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Nicolas Sloop — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Noah Brown — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.
Ramiro Arvizu — Manning Masonry, Inc.
Torren Bumgarner — Griffin Masonry
Trent Hackney — McGee Brothers Co. Inc.

40th Annual Electrical Apprentices Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 22, 2025



7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Contestant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

Tool Check

Material Inventory

Safety Briefing

*TBD, Electrical Apprentices Contest
Committee Member*

Hands-on Contest

*Conduit Bending Must be Completed
by 9:30 a.m.*

Written Test

Awards Ceremony

*Eddie Reeves, ApprenticeshipNC
(Ret.), Master of Ceremonies
Steven W. Troxler, N.C. Commissioner
of Agriculture and Consumer Services
ApprenticeshipNC Representative*

CONTEST RULES

- **Contestants may NOT use their cell phones at any time during the contest.**
- Contestants must be electrical apprentices registered in an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized program.
- Contestants must have completed at least two years of training (**minimum 4,001 on-the-job learning hours and 288 related instruction hours**), but not more than four years (**maximum 8,000 OJL hours**), and must not have received a Certificate of Completion by October 22, 2025.
- Individuals are not eligible to compete if they have passed any State Contracting Licensing Board Exam or have been approved to take such an exam before the competition date.
- Eligibility must be certified by the contestant's Registered Apprenticeship sponsor, verified by ApprenticeshipNC, and approved by the Contest Committee.
- First-place winners from previous contests are ineligible to compete.
- Contestant entry forms must be submitted by an employer or program sponsor affiliated with an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized program.
- Entry forms will be available online by August 1, 2025.
 - ApprenticeshipNC will accept entry forms from 8:00 a.m. on August 1, 2025, until 11:59 p.m. on September 5, 2025.
 - Entries submitted before or after these dates will not be accepted unless the contest has not reached capacity — no exceptions.
 - The date and time of entry submission will be recorded when received by ApprenticeshipNC.
- The contest is limited to **36 qualified contestants and 4 alternates**.
- **Contestants must be present by 7:00 a.m. on October 22, 2025, for check-in.**
- Contestants will be assigned designated work areas; no tools or materials may be placed outside of these areas.
- A materials list will be provided before the contest begins. Contestants will have 15 minutes to verify they have all listed items. Judges will assist with any missing materials during this time.
- Tool carts must be removed from under the tent before the contest begins.
- Conduit bending must be completed by 9:30 a.m.
- Contestants will be judged on both a hands-on project and a written examination.
- **All judging decisions are final.**
- Contestants must participate in the disassembly and storage of all projects immediately following the awards presentation. Please plan accordingly.
- Contestants must wear ANSI-approved safety footwear. Steel-toed shoes are not required.
- Contestants must also provide and wear a hard hat, safety glasses or goggles with full side protection, and work gloves.
- Contestants must furnish their own tool pouch and minimum required hand tools:
 - 2020 NEC book; 1/2" and 3/4" EMT bender; nylon or metal fish tape; 4-inch-long maximum flathead screwdriver; 6-inch-long minimum flathead screwdriver; hacksaw or battery power metal cutting tool; hammer; hard hat; level; lineman pliers; pencil; phillips #2 screwdriver of any length; pliers with crimping capabilities (can be stand-alone or part of other tool such as lineman pliers with center crimping capabilities); pocketknife; 6 ft minimum ruler or tape measure; safety glasses or goggles with full side protection; two slip joint pliers; wire strippers; work gloves.
- Battery operated hand tools such as drills are permitted but not required. No cord-and-plug equipment of any kind allowed.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

ApprenticeshipNC, the State Apprenticeship Agency housed under
the North Carolina Community College System
Contractor Companies
Electrical Suppliers & Manufacturers
N.C. Department of Agriculture, N.C. State Fair
N.C. Office of State Fire Marshal
N.C. State Electrical Licensing Board
State Electrical and Construction Associations
Trade Organizations & Organized Labor

PANEL OF JUDGES

Joseph Starling — Head Judge — Office of State Fire Marshal
Ben Wesley — Office of State Fire Marshal
Christopher Faucette — Office of State Fire Marshal
Dale Pruitt — Wake Forest Inspection Department
Damon Richardson — NCORR Inspections
Gerald Harvell — Mecklenburg Inspections (Ret.)
James Farley — Office of State Fire Marshal
Janet Whittaker — Office of State Fire Marshal
Jay Daunoy — Office of State Fire Marshal
John West — Mecklenburg Inspections (Ret.)
Kelly Grooms — Office of State Fire Marshal
Leon Skinner — Office of State Fire Marshal
Mark Griffin — Union Co. Inspections Department
Michael Caudle — Office of State Construction
Pat Rose — Greensboro Inspections Department (Ret.)
Roy Barbour — Garner Inspections Department
Steven Stack — Union Co. Inspections Department
Thomas Green — Office of State Fire Marshal
Tommy Smith — Durham Inspections Department
Tony Benton — Union Co. Inspections Department

BASIS OF JUDGING

Neat, Professional Manner.....	20 points
Accuracy of Layout and Installation.....	40 points
Productivity.....	30 points
Adherence to National Electrical Code.....	50 points
Safety.....	20 points
Operation of Energized System.....	40 points
Written Examination.....	100 points

LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

Each Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) sponsor or employer may submit up to eight regular applicants and two alternates. Alternates must be designated as primary and secondary. Only regular applicants will be considered among the first 36 qualifying contestants.

RAP sponsors or employers with multiple programs or locations will be treated as a single entity for the purpose of submitting entry forms. If a pool of eligible applicants is used to fill the 36 available spots, one additional entry per sponsor/contractor will be selected in each round. This process will continue in rounds until all 36 contestants have been chosen.

N.C. STATE FAIR PREMIUMS

First Place Winner	\$325
Second Place Winner	\$225
Third Place Winner	\$175
Fourth Place Winner	\$125
Fifth Place Winner	\$100
Sixth - Tenth Place Winners Each	\$75

Please see the committee with questions pertaining to contestant scores.

Plaques will be awarded to the first-place winner and their employer at a later date.

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

3M—ABC of the Carolinas—ApprenticeshipNC—Border States—Cary High School—CECA—CED—CETI—Cummins—ElectricalLicenseRenewal.com—Dewalt Stanley—Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh—Greater Wake County Building Officials Association—Graybar—Hinson Electric—Ideal Industries—Klein Tools—Lowe’s—Milwaukee Tools—Nash County Schools—Pitt Electric—Sir Raleigh Electric, Inc.—Starr Electric Company—United Electrical Sales (UES)—Watson Electric—WESCO—Vaughan Electrical Company

40th Annual

Electrical Apprentices Contest

Contestant List

Adam Mazurowski — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Angel Castillo — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC
Anthony Curatola — Watson Electrical Construction LLC
Axel Rodriguez — SE&M of the Triangle
Carson Gritton — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Cedric Spruill — Watson Electrical Construction LLC
Coliah Whitaker — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC (Alternate)
Collin Reisbich — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Corey Johnson — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Daisy Agudo — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Dallas Hayden — Starr Electric Company
Daniel Fiordalisi — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Diego Argomaniz — Salem Electric Co / FTCC
Donald Edney — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC
Dylan Benson — LJ Construction Inc.
Edwin Verde — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Elias Owings — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Fernando Gonzalez Vargas — SE&M of the Triangle
Francisco Alfaro-Rodriguez — Starr Electric Company
Griffin Smith — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Guy Kemp — Starr Electric Company
Issachar De La Cruz — Watson Electrical Construction LLC
Jameel Brock — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Joseph Falzone — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC
Joseph Adams — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Kris Combs II — SE&M of the Triangle
Kyle Pietro — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Nelson Chavers — Salem Electric Co. / FTCC
Owen Wood — SE&M of the Triangle
Sawyer McLamb — Starr Electric Company
Tyler Hendrix — Watson Electrical Construction LLC
Victor Suarez — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC
Wendell Kelly — Starr Electric Company
Zachary Dixon — Watson Electrical Construction LLC
Zachary Smith — Starr Electric Company
Zebulon Galvan — Starr Electric Company



39th Annual

Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 23, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Contestant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

Tool Inspection/Setup

Contestant Briefing

Bill Whittaker, DPR Construction, Raleigh

Safety Briefing

Kaye Thibodeaux, Representative, North Carolina Department of Labor

Contest

Judging

Awards Ceremony

Eddie Reeves, Master of Ceremony

Steven W. Troxler, N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

ApprenticeshipNC Representative

CONTEST RULES

- Contestants must be high school students enrolled in a related curriculum.
- First-place winners from previous contests ineligible to compete.
- Contestants must furnish their own equipment and a complete set of tools including:
 - A 6-to-8-foot ladder, a clamping device, hand drill, small bits for pre-drilling screws, hammer, level, framing square, combination square, tape, folding rule, a jigsaw or hand saw, circular saw (OSHA approved), 100' extension cord (OSHA approved), tin snips, cord/cordless drill, and #2 driver bit.
- Circular saws with replaced cords and extension cords that have been repaired will not be approved.
- NO power miter saws permitted
- Contestants must wear proper footwear (no sneakers). Must have safety glasses, ear protection, leather gloves and hard hat.
- Instructors must submit entry form no later than September 5, 2025.
- The contest is limited to 20 qualified teams of two contestants.

CONTEST PROJECT

The 4.5-hour contest project will consist of residential and commercial building.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Tim Eldridge — Committee Chair, Educational Services Unlimited

Bill Whittaker — DPR Construction, Raleigh

Buddy Hughes — NC Home Builders Association, Lexington

Danny Boykin — ApprenticeshipNC, Eastern Region

Eddie Reeves — ApprenticeshipNC (Ret.)

Grayson Williams — Lowes

Judy Dinelle — 84 Lumber, Asheville

Kep Paylor — NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Linda Rowland — CooperTools, Raleigh

Michele Lewter — Connect for Success NC

PANEL OF JUDGES

Buddy Hughes — Past President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Eric Anderson — Past President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Gary Hill — President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Judy Dinelle — 84 Lumber, Asheville

Kevin Annas — First Vice President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Ray Rhodes — Past President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

BASIS OF JUDGING

Productivity	100 points
Interpretation of Project	100 points
Neatness	100 points
Efficient Use of Materials	100 points
Square	100 points
Dimensions	100 points
Availability & Care of Tools and Equipment	100 points
Safety	100 points

Total of 800 points

Note: All judging is final

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

84 Lumber

ApprenticeshipNC

Buddy Hughes, Past President, NC Home Builders Association, Raleigh

Builders Mutual

CertainTeed

Crescent Tools

DPR Construction

Educational Services Unlimited

Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh

Milwaukee Tools

N.C. Department of Public Information

N.C. Home Builders Association

N.C. State Fair

Wake County Schools

N.C. STATE FAIR PREMIUMS

First Place Team	\$325
Second Place Team	\$225
Third Place Team	\$175
Fourth Place Team	\$125
Fifth Place Team	\$100
Sixth - Tenth Place Teams	\$75

Plaques will be awarded to the first-place team and their instructor.

39th Annual Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Colt Millsaps & Landon Bumgarner — Alexander Central High School
Nate Hedrick & Samuel Sckluzacek — Alexander Central High School
Campbell Quinn & Lukas Nelson — Bunn High School
Troy Aycock & Tyson Smith — Bunn High School
Jonathan Fabian Guerrero & Sam Cervantes — Bunn High School (Alternates)
Joe Hunt & Ryan Prudich — Cary High School
Garrett Murphy & Lauren Carlson — Cary High School
Daniel Olsen & Jacob Titsworth — Holly Springs High School
Ella Sauls & Irene Alvarez — Holly Springs High School
Peyton Stiers & Carter Nelson — Holly Springs High School (Alternates)
Trey Yarborough & Zach Privette — Independence High School
Abdul Rahman & Sean Owen — Independence High School
Angel Aguilar-Ayala & David Pomponio — Independence High School
Christopher Sherrill & Collin Morton — Jacksonville High School
Logan Butts & Caroline Doyle — Jacksonville High School
Xavier Ortiz Vallecillo & Yalisa Orozco Leon — Southern School of Energy and Sustainability
Hailey Morales & Jonathan Moreno de los Santos — Southern School of Energy and Sustainability
Cameron Nystrom & Hudson Frieson — Wake Forest High School
Chris Steltz & Ian Walker — Wake Forest High School
Alex Boone & Charles Nelson — West Brunswick High School
Douglas Hewett & Jackson McGee — West Brunswick High School
Chase Griffith & Zachary Harden — West Brunswick High School



21st Annual HVAC/R Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 24, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Contestant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Contestant Briefing

John Todaro, Committee Chair,
Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement,
Charlotte

Safety Briefing

Eric Smith, Representative, North
Carolina Department of Labor

Tool, Clothing, and Safety Equipment Check

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Contest

3:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

John Todaro, Committee Chair,
Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement,
Charlotte

Steven W. Troxler, N.C. Commissioner of
Agriculture
ApprenticeshipNC Representative

CONTEST RULES

- Contest limited to 12 qualified contestants.
- Contestants must be present by 7:30 a.m. for check-in.
- Contestants must be currently enrolled in an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized HVAC/R apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program.
- Entry form must be submitted by September 5, 2025.
- First-place winners from previous contests ineligible to compete.
- Contestants must not have completed their program prior to Friday, October 24, 2025.
- Contestant entry forms must be submitted by an employer or program sponsor affiliated with an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized program.

TOOL, CLOTHING, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Contestant must furnish the following tools and meters:
 - Flare block and yoke; tube cutter; gauge manifold; volt-ohm meter; pressure temperature chart — R-22; wiping cloth; safety glasses; lever bender; ammeter; tool to deburr tubing; tubing wire brush; nut driver set; basic hand tools; service valve wrench; steel rule or measuring tape; screwdrivers, straight and Phillips; two thermometers or an electronic thermometer with two probes
- Contestant must wear proper footwear (no sneakers) and provide/use safety glasses with full side shields and work gloves.
- Contestant must be knowledgeable of Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Communication Standard.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

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

PANEL OF JUDGES

Bill Spidel — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement (Ret.)
Billy Hinton — NC Department of Insurance (Ret.)
Drew Armstrong — Sunbelt Marketing
Joe Christie — Rowan Cabarrus Community College
Johnny Smith — Comfort Solutions HVAC Inc.
John Crockett — Rowan Cabarrus Community College
John Todaro — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement
John Turnage — Umpire Technologies Group
Kevin Ryan — Town of Cary Inspections
Larry Newcomb — Rowan Cabarrus Community College
Mason Cope — McClintock Heating & Cooling
Matthew Vara — Johnson Controls
Robert Holmes — Sunbelt Marketing
Scott Abernathy — Enbridge Gas North Carolina
Scotty Jordan — Enbridge Gas North Carolina
Thomas Johnston — NC State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating
& Fire Sprinkler Contractors

BASIS OF JUDGING

Written Exam.....	10 points
Brazing/Mechanical Fitting.....	10 points
Tool/Safety Check.....	10 points
Trac-Pipe Connections.....	10 points
Refrigerant Recovery/Evacuation Simulation.....	10 points
HVAC Unit (Refrigerant).....	10 points
HVAC Unit Troubleshooting (Electrical).....	10 points
Gas Furnace Troubleshooting.....	20 points
Service Call/Customer Relations/Report.....	20 points
Commercial Lo-Temp Refrigeration Drawing.....	20 points
Hermetic Compressor Electrical Trouble Shooting.....	25 points

Note: All judging is final

Total of 155 points

*Contestants are judged as they work on and complete each contest station.
Plaques will be awarded to the first-place winner and their employer.*

N.C. STATE FAIR PREMIUMS

First Place Winner	\$325
Second Place Winner	\$225
Third Place Winner	\$175
Fourth Place Winner	\$125
Fifth Place Winner	\$100
Sixth - Tenth Place Winners Each	\$75

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

ApprenticeshipNC
Biggs HVAC
Call Dad AC & Heating
Carolina Commerical Systems
Enbridge Gas North Carolina
Epting Distributors
Gregory Poole Equipment Supply, Raleigh
HVAC Labor Management Committee
Klein Tools
Milwaukee Tools
Modern Mechanical Systems
TracPipe

21st Annual HVAC/R Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Aidan Smith — Willow Bridge Property Company/Guilford Technical Community College
Caden Muller — Berico Fuels/Guilford Technical Community College
Caden Hamlet — Brady Services/Guilford Technical Community College
Camden Leonard — Brady Services/Guilford Technical Community College
Christopher Garcia — Mechanical Trades Carolina
DeShawn Dean — Miller & Condrey HVAC/Refrigeration/Cleveland Community College
Enrique Rodriguez — AC Corporation (Alternate)

21st Annual

HVAC/R Apprentice Contest

Contestant List Continued

Ezekiel McNeill — PHCC of NC/ McClintock Heating & Cooling

Genaro Soto-Diaz — Mechanical Trades Carolina

Hadden Johnson — Call Dad (Alternate)

Jonathan Vinyard — AC Corporation

Joshua Saucedo-Moya — Brady Services/Guilford Technical Community College (Alternate)

Matthew McBirney — AC Corporation

Micah Longwell — Shelby Heating and Air / Cleveland Community College

Micah Cantwell — Call Dad (Alternate)

Nathaniel Ragan — Call Dad (Alternate)

Nicholas Groenewold — Call Dad

Shahbaz Razzaq — Call Dad (Alternate)

INAUGURAL

Registered Apprenticeship Expo

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 24, 2025



9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Participant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registered Apprenticeship Expo

- *ApprenticeshipNC*
- *Black's Tire*
- *Living Better Life LLC*
- *NCTAP*
- *Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of North Carolina*
- *The North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors*
- *The North Carolina Fire Sprinkler Association*
- *The North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association*
- *The Raleigh-Durham JATC*
- *The State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors*
- *Southeast Propane Alliance Technical Education Center*
- *Vance Granville Community College*
- *Wake Technical Community College*



Cosmetology Contests

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 25, 2025

CONTESTS

Total Look / Fantasy Hair & Make-up

Total Evening Elegance

Total Style

Fantasy Nail Art Design

Anything But Hair



SCHEDULE

8:30am - Registration & Check-In

9:00am - Contest Briefings

12:00pm - Judging

1:30pm - Presentation Parade of ALL Competitors

1:45pm - Awards



Cosmetology Contests

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 25, 2025

TOTAL LOOK / FANTASY HAIR & MAKE-UP CONTEST

Competitors are tasked with completing a fantasy look on a live model at the State Fair. Competitors will be judged on the make-up, hair styling, costuming and ornamentation of their model. Competitors will be judged on the "Total Look" of their model based on the given theme.

TOTAL EVENING ELEGANCE (STUDENT MANIKIN COMPETITION)

Competitors use a manikin for styling. All hairstyling will be completed at the State Fair.

TOTAL STYLE (SHOWCASE COMPETITION)

This is a manikin styling showcase competition, where all hairstyling has been completed PRIOR TO the competition day, and the styled manikin is brought to the State Fair for showcasing and judging.

FANTASY NAIL ART DESIGN (STUDENT MANIKIN HAND COMPETITION)

This is a manikin hand showcase competition, where all nail art design has been completed PRIOR TO the competition day, and the completed manikin hand is brought to the competition site for showcasing and judging. Competitors will be judged on their design based on the given theme.

ANYTHING BUT HAIR

This is a manikin styling competition, where all creation and design must be completed and assembled at the competition site. Contestants may use any items in their styling and assembly, except hair!



Cosmetology Contests

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 25, 2025

BASIS OF JUDGING

- Creativity
- Originality
- Execution
- Adaptability
- Total Look Presentation / Theme Application

OVERALL COSMETOLOGY AWARDS

First Place Winner	\$325
Second Place Winner	\$225
Third Place Winner	\$175
Fourth Place Winner	\$125
Fifth Place Winner	\$100
Sixth - Tenth Place Winners Each	\$75

ELIGIBILITY

Cosmetology students from schools across the state are invited to participate in all of our cosmetology competitions. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled in a cosmetology training program/course in North Carolina at the high school or college post-secondary level.

Thank You

ApprenticeshipNC would like to thank the following individuals and agencies for their continued support of the Annual Apprentice Contests.

- North Carolina Community College System Office
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Steve Troxler
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Chief Deputy Commissioner N. David Smith

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the contest committees, judges, and contributors who generously volunteer their time, energy, and resources. Their expertise and commitment are invaluable in ensuring the contests are conducted fairly, professionally, and with the highest standards.

The Annual Apprentice Contests would simply not be possible without the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of all these individuals and organizations. Their efforts help provide apprentices with important opportunities to showcase their skills and advance their careers.

We look forward to continuing these partnerships and welcoming even more talent and support in next year's contests.



About ApprenticeshipNC

Recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship to act on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor, ApprenticeshipNC (ANC) is the State Apprenticeship Agency and a division of the North Carolina Community College System.

The ApprenticeshipNC team works with employers, educational institutions, and community partners to foster and expand Registered Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs across North Carolina.

ApprenticeshipNC also serves as an information source for individuals interested in pursuing career opportunities through Registered Apprenticeship.

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