2026

APPRENTICESHIPNC AT THE N.C. STATE FAIR

BUILDING FUTURES, SHOWCASING TALENT.



APPRENTICESHIPNC
NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Table of **Contents**

WELCOME FROM APPRENTICESHIPNC.....1

72ND ANNUAL MASONRY APPRENTICE CONTEST.....2
Monday, October 19, 2026

41ST ANNUAL ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE CONTEST.....6
Wednesday, October 21, 2026

40TH ANNUAL CARPENTRY PRE-APPRENTICE CONTEST.....11
Thursday, October 22, 2026

38TH ANNUAL PLUMBER APPRENTICE CONTEST.....15
Friday, October 23, 2026

22ND ANNUAL HVAC/R APPRENTICE CONTEST.....19
Friday, October 23, 2026

2ND ANNUAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP EXPO.....23
Friday, October 23, 2026

SkillsUSA COSMETOLOGY CONTESTS.....24
Saturday, October 24, 2026

Welcome **Message**

Welcome to the 2026 N.C. State Fair Apprentice Contests. For decades, these contests have given North Carolina apprentices the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of their families, employers, peers, and the public. They are one of our longest-standing traditions at ApprenticeshipNC, and I am proud that we continue to celebrate the people and organizations that make Registered Apprenticeship work. Registered Apprenticeship is the gold standard of work-based learning because it connects learning directly to work. Apprentices develop their skills through structured on-the-job learning, related instruction, progressive wages, and the guidance of experienced professionals. What you see in these competitions — the craftsmanship, precision, problem-solving, and professionalism — is the result of that process.

However, no apprentice reaches this point alone. Behind every competitor is an employer willing to invest in developing its workforce, a sponsor committed to maintaining a quality Registered Apprenticeship, and instructors, mentors, supervisors, families, and others who support the apprentice along the way. These contests are an opportunity to recognize all of them.

North Carolina is also making a significant and growing commitment to Registered Apprenticeship. New recurring state investment gives ApprenticeshipNC additional capacity to help more employers build programs, strengthen existing programs, and create opportunities for more North Carolinians to learn, earn, and build meaningful careers.

At the heart of these contests are the apprentices themselves. Their participation reflects the skill, preparation, persistence, and pride that define the skilled trades. Each competitor demonstrates not only individual achievement, but also the value of investing in people and developing talent through meaningful work and structured learning.

Thank you to our apprentices, employers, sponsors, families, and partners for making this tradition — and Registered Apprenticeship in North Carolina — possible.

Chris Harrington, Ph.D, MBA
State Director
ApprenticeshipNC — NC Community College System

APPRENTICESHIPNC
NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

72nd Annual

Masonry Apprentice Contest
Bricklaying & Blocklaying

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 19, 2026

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** ***ApprenticeshipNC*** ***Calvin Brodie****, Contest Committee Chair* ***Doug Burton****, Master of Ceremonies* ***Danks Burton****, Pinnacle Masonry, Inc., Raleigh* ***Steven W. Troxler,*** *N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants must be approved for contest participation by their employer, program sponsor, or the Contest Committee.
2. The contest is limited to Registered Apprentices/Pre-Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized programs.
3. 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.
4. All required documentation must be submitted prior to the start of the contest in order for contestants to compete.
5. Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
6. The contest is limited to 35 qualifying contestants. ApprenticeshipNC will maintain an alternate list of up to five contestants.
7. Contestants are required to bring their own equipment and a full set of tools. Contestants must also provide and wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

TOOL LIST

Trowel, level, square, hammer, water can, standard and modular rule, and concave jointers, cotton gloves, hard hat, safety glasses, and proper safety shoes (no sneakers). Note: A mortar pan will be provided for each contestant.

CONTEST 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

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.

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 Tools, 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

72nd Annual
Masonry Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Abel Chigo — Ariel Masonry
Alan Grimsley — Huntley Brothers Company, Inc. - Charlotte
Austin Gore — A.E. Butler Masonry
Blake Moore — McGee Brothers Company, Inc. — 6th Place
Chris Claudio Carlos — Carolina Masonry and Concrete, LLC
Colsen Palmer — Ridenhour Masonry, Inc.
Dae'qwon Boston — Manning Masonry, Inc.
Daniel Monrroy Cruz — Carolina Masonry and Concrete, LLC
Dash Huntley — Huntley Brothers Company, Inc. - Charlotte — 3rd Place
David Claeys — Rush Masonry Management, LLC
DonaldoVentura Reyes — Brodie Contractors, Inc.
Easton McGee — McGee Brothers Company, Inc. — 4th Place
Elijah Morris — Manning Masonry, Inc.
Favian Barrios — Manning Masonry, Inc.
Henry Gonzalez-Morales — Brodie Contractors, Inc.
Jacob Zelenka — Brodie Contractors, Inc.
James Whitley — Huntley Brothers Company, Inc. - Charlotte — 7th Place
Jared Moran — McGee Brothers Company, Inc. — 10th Place
Jorge Humberto Santillan — Brodie Contractors, Inc. — 5th Place
Juan Flores — Manning Masonry, Inc.
Kevin Lagos — Rush Masonry Management, LLC
Marco Montezuma Salinas — Carolina Masonry and Concrete, LLC
Marcos Gomez — Carolina Masonry and Concrete, LLC
Nicholas Sloop — McGee Brothers Company, Inc. — 1st Place
Oscar Suazo Gomez — Carolina Masonry and Concrete, LLC
Patrick Ariel — Ariel Masonry — 2nd Place
Ro Ksor — McGee Brothers Company, Inc. — 9th Place
Roberto Garcia Rivera — Edgar Boettcher Mason Contractor — 8th Place

41st Annual

Electrical Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 21, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	**Contestant Check-In** *ApprenticeshipNC*
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	**Tool Check**
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	**Material Inventory**
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	**Safety Briefing** ***Frank Wiesner,*** *Electrical Apprentice Contest Committee Member*
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Hands-on Contest** *Conduit bending must be completed by 9:30 a.m.*
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	**Written Test** *2020 National Electrical Code without N.C. Amendments*
3:00 p.m.	**Awards Ceremony** ***ApprenticeshipNC*** ***Eddie Reeves****, ApprenticeshipNC (Ret.), Master of Ceremonies* ***Steven W. Troxler,*** *N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

CONTEST RULES

1. **Contestants may NOT use their cell phones at any time during the contest.**
2. Contestants must be electrical apprentices registered in an ApprenticeshipNC-recognized program.
3. Contestants must have completed at least two years (**minimum 4,001 on-the-job learning hours** and **288 related instruction hours**), but no more than four years (**maximum 8,000 OJL hours**) of training, and must not have received a Certificate of Completion by October 21, 2026.
4. 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.
5. Eligibility must be certified by the contestant's Registered Apprenticeship sponsor, verified by ApprenticeshipNC, and approved by the Contest Committee.
6. First-place winners from previous contests are ineligible to compete.
7. The contest is limited to **36 qualified contestants** and **4 alternates**.
8. **Contestants must be present by 7:00 a.m. on October 21, 2026, for check-in**.
9. Contestants will be assigned designated work areas; no tools or materials may be placed outside of these areas.
10. 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.
11. Tool carts must be removed from under the tent before the contest begins.
12. Conduit bending must be completed by 9:30 a.m.
13. Contestants will be judged on both a hands-on project and a written examination.
14. **All judging decisions are final.**
15. Contestants must participate in the disassembly and storage of all projects immediately following the awards presentation. Please plan accordingly.
16. Contestants must wear ANSI-approved safety footwear. Steel-toed shoes are not required.
17. Contestants must also provide and wear a hard hat, safety glasses or goggles with full side protection, and work gloves.
18. Contestants must furnish their own tool pouch and minimum required hand tools. See list below.
19. Battery operated hand tools such as drills are permitted but not required. No cord-and-plug equipment or ladders f any kind allowed.

TOOL LIST

- Two slip joint pliers
- Wire strippers
- Work gloves
- 2020 NEC (No Handbook)
- 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 (stand-alone or part of other tool with center crimping capabilities)
- Pocketknife
- 6 ft minimum ruler or tape measure
- Safety glasses or goggles with full side protection

CONTEST COMMITTEE

ApprenticeshipNC
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

Ben Wesley — Office of State Fire Marshal
Chad Vaughan — Vaughan Electric
Christopher Faucette — Office of State Fire Marshal
Dale Pruitt — Wake Forest Inspections
Damon Richardson — State Construction Office
Gerald Harvell — Mecklenburg Inspections (Ret.)
Jay Daunoy — Office of State Fire Marshal
John West — Mecklenburg Inspections (Ret.)
Joseph Starling — Office of State Fire Marshal
Josh West — Mooresville
Kelly Grooms — Office of State Fire Marshal
Mark Griffin — Union County Inspections
Michael Caudle — State Construction Office
Pat Rose — Greensboro Inspections (Ret.)
Roy Barbour — Garner Inspections (Ret.)
Steven Stack — Union County Inspections
Thomas Green — Office of State Fire Marshal
Tommy Smith — Durham Inspections
Tony Benton — Union County Inspections

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

Total of 300 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. A pool of eligible applicants is used to fill the 36 available spots, with one entry per sponsor/contractor 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 — ApprenticeshipNC — Carolinas Electrical Training Institute — Cary High School — CECA — CED — Cummins — Dewalt Stanley — Eaton Corporation — ElectricalLicenseRenewal.com — Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh — Greater Wake County Building Officials Association — Graybar — Hinson Electric — IBEW Local Union 553 — Ideal Industries — Klein Tools — Lowe's — Milwaukee Tools — Nash County Schools — NCAEC — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC — Sir Raleigh Electric, Inc. — Starr Electric Company, Inc. — Wake County Association of Electrical Contractors — Watson Electrical Construction Co., LLC — Vaughan Electrical Company

41st Annual
Electrical Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Adam Kunze — Triangle Electrical Services Inc./ABC of the Carolinas, Inc.
Addison Duncan — Jackson Electrical Contractors/Apprenticeship Blue Ridge
Angel Castillo — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC — 4th Place
Anna Mann — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC/Wayne Community College — 8th Place
Bobby Pearson — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Cameron Craig — Fountain Electric Services, LLC
Camilo Andres Barrero Escobar — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Carson Tadlock — SE&M / Wake Tech Community College
Christian Enriquez — Watson Electrical Construction Co., LLC (Alternate)
Christopher Aquino — Jackson Electrical Contractors/Apprenticeship Blue Ridge
Cody Gioielli — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC/Wayne Community College
Diego Argomaniz — Salem Electric Company/Forsyth Technical Community College
Eloy Vazquez — Fountain Electric Services, LLC
Emerson Alvarenga-Paz — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC/Wayne Community College
Erik Naderer — Starr Electric Company, Inc. — 3rd Place
Gage Carter — Starr Electric Company ,Inc. — 7th Place
Geordan Prosser — Alcami Corporation/Cape Fear Community College
Issachar De La Cruz — Watson Electrical Construction Co., LLC — 2nd Place
Joseph Falzone — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC — 6th Place
Josiah Ward — Fountain Electric Services, LLC
Justin Rigsbee — L.L. Vann Electric, Inc./Wake Technical Community College
Kevin Morales — SE&M / Wake Tech Community College
Luis Avellaneda — Raleigh-Durham Electrical JATC
Matt Dougherty — Carolinas Electrical JATC
Nelson Chavers — Salem Electric Company/Forsyth Technical Community College
Patrick Lavrik — Charlotte Electrical JATC
Robert Bruno — Charlotte Electrical JATC — 9th Place
Robert Davis — SE&M / Wake Tech Community College
Ryan Dellaghelfa — Jackson Electrical Contractors/Apprenticeship Blue Ridge
Scott Wright — Carolinas Electrical JATC
Thomas Jeffries Jr. — L.J. Electrical Company
Tyler Hendrix — Watson Electrical Construction Co., LLC — 1st Place
Tyson Shroyer — Watson Electrical Construction Co., LLC
Victor Suarez — Pitt Electric ORI, LLC/Wayne Community College — 10th Place
Willis Daniel III — Salem Electric Company/Forsyth Technical Community College
Zachary Smith — Starr Electric Company, Inc. — 5th Place
Zack Turner — SE&M / Wake Tech Community College

40th Annual

Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 22, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	**Contestant Check-In** *ApprenticeshipNC*
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	**Tool Inspection/Setup**
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Contestant Briefing** ***Bill Whittaker**, DPR Construction, Raleigh* **Safety Briefing** ***Margaret Ness,** Representative, North Carolina Department of Labor*
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	**Contest**
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	**Judging**
3:00 p.m.	**Awards Ceremony** ***ApprenticeshipNC*** ***Eddie Reeves**, Master of Ceremony* ***Steven W. Troxler,** N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants must be registered in an ApprenticeshipNC-recognzied Pre-Apprenticeship or high school students enrolled in a related curriculum.
2. First-place winners from previous contests ineligible to compete.
3. Contestants must furnish their own equipment and a complete set of tools. See list below.
4. Circular saws with replaced cords and extension cords that have been repaired will not be approved.
5. No power miter saws permitted.
6. Contestants must wear proper footwear (no sneakers). Must have safety glasses, ear protection, leather gloves and hard hat.
7. The contest is limited to 20 qualified teams of two contestants.

TOOL LIST

- 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
- Jigsaw or hand saw
- Circular saw (OSHA approved)
- 100' extension cord (OSHA approved)
- Tin snips
- Cord/cordless drill
- #2 driver bit

CONTEST PROJECT

Deer Blind (contestants have 4.5 hours to complete)

CONTEST 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
Michelle Lewter — Connect for Success NC
Tim Eldridge — Educational Services Unlimited

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.

40th Annual

Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Alexander High School
- **Samuel Sluzacek & Nate Hedrick — 7th Place**
- **Colt Millsaps & Landon Bumgarner — 5th Place**

Bunn High School
- Tyson Smith & Don Cervantes
- **Troy Aycock & Johnathan Fabian — 3rd Place**
- **Nicholas Meyer & Daniel King — 4th Place**

Cary High School
- **Joseph Hunt & Ryan Prudich — 2nd Place**
- Garrett Murphy & Andrew Lanning

Holly Springs High School
- Michael Rinaldo & Carter Nelson
- Payton Stiers & Spencer Niblett
- Michael Michler & James Joyce
- Braden Wearmouth & Kai Wilbanks

Independence High School
- **Wesley Dowless & Jacob Frey — 6th Place**
- **Eli Crouch & Jonathan French — 8th Place**

Jacksonville High School
- **Finn Thompson & Xavier Borsa — 9th Place**
- **Julian Springer & Brody Weston — 10th Place**

Southeast Area Technical High School/Cape Fear Community College
- **Charles Nelson & Ross Rouleau — 1st Place**

Wake Forest High School
- Olivia Draper & Brooklyn Cassidy
- Danny Arellan-Vazquez & Brandon Bingham

38th Annual

Plumber Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 23, 2026

8:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.	**Contestant Check-In** *ApprenticeshipNC*
8:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.	**Contestant Briefing** ***Dale Dawson**, Master of Ceremony, State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors*
	Safety Briefing ***Eric Smith,** Representative, North Carolina Department of Labor*
	Tool and Clothing Check
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	**Contest**
1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	**Judging**
3:00 p.m.	**Awards Ceremony** ***ApprenticeshipNC*** ***Dale Dawson**, Master of Ceremony, State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors* ***Steven W. Troxler,** N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture*

CONTEST RULES

1. First place winners are ineligible to compete in future contests.
2. The contest is limited to Registered Apprentices and Registered Pre-Apprentices enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC-recognized plumber/pipefitter programs.
3. Contestants must be approved for contest participation by their employer, program sponsor, or the Contest Committee.
4. 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.
5. Contest limited to 20 qualified contestants.
6. Contestants must be present by 8:00 a.m. for check-in.

CONTEST PROJECT

The contest will be a four-hour project consisting of a service installation using residential, commercial, and industrial plumbing/pipefitting methods that conform to the North Carolina Plumbing Code. Power tools (meeting OSHA requirements) will be permitted.

TOOL, CLOTHING, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Contestants must furnish own equipment and a complete set of tools, including:
  - wood chisel; 25/8", 19/16" and 5/8" drill bits or hole saw; pipe saw (PVC); copper tube cutter; hand torch and gas; plumb bob; level; 2018 nc plumbing code book; drill motor; reciprocating saw; 6' ruler or tape; 3"–6" screwdrivers (slotted and Phillips); pocketknife; channel lock (1 pair); hammer; tri-square; 100' power extension cord (OSHA approved); 1/2" Pex crimpers; Pex tubing cutters; shovel.
- Consumable supplies will be furnished by Plumbing Contest Committee.
- Contestants must wear proper footwear (no sneakers) and use safety glasses with full side shields and work gloves.
- Contestants must be knowledgeable of Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Communication Standard.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

ApprenticeshipNC
Beau Chollette — Director of Inspections and Central Permitting of the Davidson County Building Inspection Department, Lexington, NC
Dale Dawson — Executive Director of the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors, Raleigh
Dale Pruitt — Code Enforcement Section Supervisor of the Town of Wake Forest Building Inspection Department, Wake Forest, NC
Daniel Schaeffer — President of Johns Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Greensboro, NC
Ed Burleson — Guilford Plumbing Supply, Greensboro & Raleigh, NC
Jim Lawson — Chief Plumbing Inspector (Ret.) of the City of High Point Building Inspection Department, High Point, NC

PANEL OF JUDGES

Beau Chollette — Director of Inspections and Central Permitting of the Davidson County Building Inspection Department, Lexington, NC
Dale Dawson — Executive Director of the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors, Raleigh
Dale Pruitt — Code Enforcement Section Supervisor of the Town of Wake Forest Building Inspection Department, Wake Forest, NC
Daniel Schaeffer — President of Johns Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Greensboro, NC
Jim Lawson — Chief Plumbing Inspector (Ret.) of the City of High Point Building Inspection Department, High Point, NC

BASIS OF JUDGING

Neat, Professional Manner..... 10 points
Accuracy of Layout & Installation..... 10 points
Productivity..... 10 points
Compliance to NC Plumbing Code..... 10 points
Safety..... 10 points
Pressure Leak Test of System..... 10 points
Cast Iron..... 10 points
Written & Practical Test ..... 20 points
Note: All judging is final

Total of 90 points

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

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

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

ApprenticeshipNC
Associated Builders and Contractors Inc
Educational Services Unlimited
Guilford Plumbing Supply Inc, Raleigh
Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh
Milwaukee Electric Tool Brookfield, WI
Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of N.C. (PHCCNC), Raleigh
Moen

38th Annual

Plumber Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Dylan Cruz — CL Warters LLC — 5th Place
Earl Uptgrow — Mechanical Trades Carolina — 6th Place
James Magana — Call Dad — 7th Place
J'Lexus Brooks Carter — Precision Plumbing Inc — 1st Place
Luke Corbett — CL Warters LLC — 3rd Place
Miguel Garcia Segura — CL Warters LLC — 4th Place
Schuyler Clarke — Call Dad — 2nd Place

22nd Annual

HAVC/R Apprentice Contest

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 23, 2026

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 Registered Apprenticeship or Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program.
- First-place winners from previous contests ineligible to compete.
- Contestants must not have completed their program prior to Friday, October 23, 2026.

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

- 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

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

PANEL OF JUDGES

Bill Spidel — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement (Ret.)
Billy Hinton — NC Department of Insurance (Ret.)
David Strick — Omega-Flex Inc.
Drew Armstrong — Sunbelt Marketing
Joe Christie — Rowan Cabarrus Community College
John Todaro — Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement
John Turnage — Umpire Technologies Group
Johnny Smith — Comfort Solutions HVAC Inc.
Jon Crockett — Rowan Cabarrus Community College
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
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.

CONTEST CONTRIBUTORS

ApprenticeshipNC
Biggs HVAC
Call Dad AC & Heating
Carolina Commerical Systems
Enbridge Gas North Carolina
Klein Tools
Milwaukee Tools
Modern Mechanical HVAC LLC
Omega-Flex, Inc.
Sunbelt Marketing
TracPipe
UA 421 Service Labor Management Committee

22nd Annual
HVAC/R Apprentice Contest

Contestant List

Aidan Smith — Willow Bridge Property Company/Guilford Technical Community College — 5th Place
Anton Olshall — Call Dad — 8th Place
Caden Hamlett — Brady Services/Guilford Technical Community College — 3rd Place
Caleb Spear — AirMakers Heating & Cooling, LLC/Wake Technical Community College — 10th Place
Christopher Garcia — Mechanical Trades Carolina (LU421) — 4th Place
Dustin Stanford — Call Dad — 9th Place
Genaro Soto-Diaz — Mechanical Trades Carolina (LU421) — 1st Place
Joshua Saucedo-Moya — Brady Services/Guilford Technical Community College — 7th Place
Matthew McBirney — AC Corporation/Guilford Technical Community College — 6th Place
Stephen Belk — McClintock Heating & Cooling & PHCC of NC — 2nd Place

2nd Annual

Registered Apprenticeship Expo

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Participant Check-In

ApprenticeshipNC

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registered Apprenticeship Expo

- ***AirMakers Heating & Cooling, LLC***
- ***Call Dad***
- ***Central Piedmont Community College***
- ***Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools***
- ***Fessler & Bowman***
- ***NCTAP***
- ***North Carolina Life Sciences Apprenticeship Consortium***
  - ***Pfizer***
  - ***NCBiotech***
- ***Phillip's Towing, Inc.***
- ***Southern Industrial Constructors***
- ***The Innovation Project***
- ***Vance-Granville Community College***

Cosmetology Contests

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 24, 2026

CONTESTS

Total Look / Fantasy Hair & Make-Up
Total Evening Elegance
Anything But Hair
Nail Art Design
Total Style





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 24, 2026

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

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!

FANTASY NAIL ART DESIGN (SHOWCASE 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.

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.

Cosmetology Contests

N.C. STATE FAIR: OCTOBER 24, 2026

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 the years to come.

APPRENTICESHIPNC

NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

About ApprenticeshipNC

Recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship to act on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor, ApprenticeshipNC, a part of the North Carolina Community College System, is the only approved registration and compliance body for Registered Apprenticeship in North Carolina.

The ApprenticeshipNC team works directly with employers, educational institutions, and community partners in all 100 North Carolina counties to design, launch, and expand Registered Apprenticeship and Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

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

Contact Information :

+1 (919) 807-6988

www.apprenticeshipnc.com

200 West Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27603