

Youth Apprenticeship Week

May 5–11, 2024

WHAT IS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK?

This year marks the first 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, and 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 the success of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) and is a key part of the Department's Youth Employment Works strategy.

- ▶ In March 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) launched a [Youth Employment Works Strategy](#) to center young people at the heart of workforce and economic development conversations. It challenges us to deepen partnerships across sectors and provide “no wrong door” to quality career pathways, paid work, and wraparound services, and hire young workers through Youth Apprenticeship, summer youth employment, and beyond. Learn more at [DOL.gov/YEW](https://dol.gov/YEW).
- ▶ In the past 11 years, the number of active youth apprentices increased by 120% from 119,996 to 264,438.
- ▶ DOL has awarded funding over the past 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.



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





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 explain 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: 1) provide affordable paths to secure careers, which may lead to college credit and a paid college experience without the debt associated with the traditional college model, and 2) to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the workplace.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Join Registered Apprenticeship champions from across the United States 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
- ▶ 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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