

Career Navigator News
North and East zone
Kevin Cardille of Southeast Service Cooperative

Congratulations to Valley Craft Industries of Lake City:

Valley Craft Industries of Lake City was selected as Southeast Service Cooperatives industry partner of the year. Valley Craft has held many tours for students, both career and job tours for welding classes, business classes, and career classes. They involved production, management, human resources and sales and marketing in their tours for students. They currently employ two students and are looking to hire a couple more as summer seasonal employees. They invited students to shadow and learn about the manufacturing industry. I would like to thank Valley Craft for their support of education and training for students and the schools in southeast Minnesota.

Spring and Summer work opportunities:

This is a reminder to all that there are a lot of opportunities out there for entry level workers. Many of these I found while looking at Indeed. Some of these are from places that students visited during our various tours and some are manufacturing sites that I work with. I have noticed that many of you have put positions on your company websites, I included those below. This is by no means a complete list and I have encouraged students to drop off a resume and letter of interest at any of the places they are interested in or the places listed below. I also told them that some of these positions will require you to be 18 but not all. They should make sure they let you know their age and birthdate so that you can find the right fit. I gave many students a draft of a resume template so if you get resumes that look very similar that may be why. I just want them to apply. I let them know that many of these jobs may be seasonal but may have the opportunity for some continuance for the right person. Below are the places that I found to have postings.

Rochester Ford and Chevrolet	Penze GMC and Subaru - Rochester
Zumbrota Ford - Zumbrota	Flagship Chevrolet - Zumbrota
Eide Chrysler / Jeep - Zumbrota	Valleycraft Industries - Lake City
Hearth and Home - Lake City	Gemini Inc. – Cannon Falls
Universal Marine and RV - Rochester	River Valley Power and Sports - Rochester
Safelite - Rochester	Valvoline Instant Oil Change - Rochester and area
O'Reilly Auto Parts - Rochester area	NAPA - area stores
Firestone tire and Auto - Rochester area	Autozone - Rochester area
Cannon Power Sports - Cannon Falls	Midwest Machinery - SE Minnesota
Allcraft Exteriors - Rochester area	Smitty's Marine - Lake City
Henkel Corporation - Cannon Falls	Tires Plus - Rochester
St. Elizabeth's - Wabasha	Briese Iron Works - Rochester

If your business has something that would be a great spot for a high school age student please email me and I will share that information with my school contacts.

Planning for next school year:

In the last month I have been working with my schools to plan events for next year. We would like to expand to different career paths and offer more opportunities for students to learn about jobs for them in their future. I am looking forward to working with many of you to create these events for students over the summer months. I am finding that the teachers like to visit your locations the best because it allows students to see the places in which they would like to work. I will share the ideas with the local businesses when we have a draft put together. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in participating in the events we are trying to plan.

Sponsorships and financial support:

I have been asked by a couple of businesses about sponsorships. It was very difficult for me to turn down an offer like that but at that time that was not what I was looking for. My primary purpose is to provide connections, education and exploration opportunities to students so they make a good educated decision about what they do after high school. I know that by participating in the activities that we plan there is a cost associated with your staff being tied up and other overhead costs. I am listing some other ideas that you could consider if you are willing to give more.

- You could make a donation to the school district itself which would be a tax-deductible donation on your part. Just ask the district to respond with a donation letter which includes their tax-exempt number. This donation could be to cover the cost of transportation or substitute costs for the district. Transportation for a daylong event could be \$300-\$500 and a full day sub may cost the district \$150. I provide these numbers as a guideline for you as you consider a donation.
- Offer scholarships to schools for students who work for you to help them continue on to college. Some businesses are offering these scholarships if the student commits to working for them for 3 -5 years after schooling. There could be many creative ways to assist students and potential future employees.
- Offer your employees incentives for having a student shadow them while they work. It is extra work for them and it could impact their production for the day. Helping to cover the shadow without impact to your production could be an extra cost you pay to educate students and future employees.
- A few of our school districts have just remodeled or added on to their vocational wings. If you would like to donate a piece of equipment or financial assistance to cover equipment that is currently in manufacturing you again can do so as a tax-deductible donation for the value of the equipment. In the long term we hope that it trains students who will work for you in the future.
- Provide a summer work experience for teachers to learn more about your place of business or industry. This would be a great way to get staff to talk more about what various industries are doing.

Thank you!

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