



Explore your options

- **The first step is to find out which is the right craft for you.** Plumber, electrician, laborer, painter, ironworker – these are just a few of the 26 crafts that are part of the building and construction trades. Some crafts require more analytical skills, others require more physical strength, and most require both!
- **Check out programs in your area designed to prepare you for the challenges of apprenticeship.** These programs vary widely, but generally last 6-12 weeks and offer work skills, provide an overview of the construction trades, and prepare you for meeting general apprenticeship entrance requirements. For information about programs in your area, contact BC3: 916-443-3302 or www.BuildingC3.com.
- **Apply to enter an apprenticeship program.** Apprenticeship provides training and paid “on-the-job learning” about the skilled trades. Contact your state or local Building Trades Council for information about programs near you or go to www.BuildingC3.com.

For more information

Building California Construction Careers (BC3)
www.BuildingC3.com • www.sbctc.org
916-443-3302
1225 8th Street, Suite 395 • Sacramento, CA 95814

This project of the State Building and Construction Trades Council is designed to help young people learn about opportunities in the construction trades and see this career as an outstanding alternative to a four-year degree.





College isn't for everyone.

Neither is construction work—
but it may be for you!

- **Attitude is key.** Construction work is team work. You are expected to get to work on time and get the work done—and when you finish one job, find more to do. Your co-workers will rely on you to carry your weight.
- **There is no fear factor.** Safety is a critical part of the construction industry. You may have to work hundreds of feet in the air or below thousands of pounds of equipment. The industry institutes more effective precautions every year to ensure your safety. In construction, you can't be afraid to get dirty and you can't be afraid to get the job done.
- **If you're interested in how things get built...** If you like detail-oriented projects or to work on a grand scale, construction offers a wide range of opportunities to be part of a project that will last long beyond your years. Construction workers feel the pride of accomplishment as they make good wages and work with great people.



Getting into the BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES

- **The construction industry needs skilled workers.** The average age of today's construction worker is 47 years old. For every four people who leave the trades, by retirement or otherwise, only one new person is currently coming up through the apprenticeship system.
- **Learn while you earn:** To enter the building trades, you start as an apprentice. Apprenticeship programs offer a positive alternative to a four-year college degree. They provide an opportunity to get paid while working and learning a life-long skill.
- **Apprenticeship is a career ladder.** An apprenticeship program provides paid job training with related classroom training and continuing education, often for college credit, while receiving great wages, health benefits, pensions and more. You can work with the tools, or become a project



manager, inspector, estimator, safety engineer or many other positions integral to building a large project.

- **Excellent starting wages.** Wages for apprentices in state-approved apprenticeship programs start at 40% of the prevailing wage in the local area—about \$12-15 per hour, plus benefits. The rate increases every six months until training is completed. After serving a 3-5 year apprenticeship (depending on craft), journeymen will make an average wage of \$28 per hour plus health and pension benefits. Many trades pay in excess of \$75 per hour when you work overtime.

