



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Hooper Hosts Second Annual Skilled Trades Boot Camp for Area High School Students

Creating opportunities for youth and building the next generation of skilled construction professionals

DeForest, WI (April 25, 2024) -- Hooper is happy to expand on its youth skilled trades initiatives with its second annual Skilled Trades Boot Camp, taking place on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at its Hooper Fabrication Facility in DeForest, Wisconsin.

The camp is open to area high school juniors and seniors who are passionate about a career in the construction industry. This year's attendees include 30 students from DeForest, LaFollette, Marshall, Monona Grove, Oregon, River Valley, Poynette, Lodi, Sauk Prairie and Wisconsin Heights high schools. Hooper's one-day event will introduce students to a variety of career opportunities featuring demonstrations and hands-on activities alongside professionals in the following areas:

- Safety - retractable harness suit-up
- Sheet Metal/Custom Metals - HVAC ductwork assembly
- Steamfitting - welding process demonstration
- Fire Protection - victaulic fitting process
- Plumbing - solder joint and sewer camera viewing activities
- Electric Power - activity trailer on-site
- Virtual Design - 3D design demonstration

"Hooper's boot camp is an opportunity to get students outside of the classroom where they can actively explore the trades via hands-on learning," said Jamie Pauli, plumbing superintendent and youth apprentice program director at Hooper. "Last year's boot camp offered students a safe, fun, and valuable learning experience that we're excited to offer to another group of students this year."

Hooper's Skilled Trades Boot Camp is an extension of its Skilled Trades Youth Apprenticeship Program that lets high-school juniors and seniors get a taste of technical careers. This one or two-year program can even lead to a full-time job after graduation for some.

Monona Grove High School senior Graham Oeftger is a student in the apprenticeship program who will start a full-time job with Hooper after graduation. Oeftger currently splits his time between class and work as part of the school district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. CTE allows him to work at Hooper a few days a week where he gains on-the-job training and a paycheck, as well as credit towards his high school diploma.

Building things has always been a part of Oeftger, and getting outside of the classroom to put that passion and knowledge into action has been a key learning opportunity and head start in his career. He wants to be a plumber and will start at Hooper this summer as a plumbing pre-apprentice. Graham will be working on jobsites installing plumbing systems and will start his apprenticeship in the fall, while continuing his education through the company.

“The path that’s most often presented to high school students is 4-year college, but everyone learns differently and there are many educational paths,” said Pauli. “I’m proud to be a part of the youth trade initiatives at Hooper; it’s rewarding to see how many students flourish in this environment, while also helping to build the next generation of skilled construction professionals.”

Oeftger will be at the May 1 Boot Camp where he’ll continue to gain hands-on experience while also being a student mentor to his peers.

Hooper Skilled Trades Boot Camp

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Hooper Fabrication Facility

6400 Pederson Crossing Boulevard, DeForest, WI 53532

(Media is welcome to attend)

Hooper’s Fabrication Facility features over 207,000 square feet of production space and employs nearly 80 union steamfitters, sheet metal workers, plumbers and tradespeople.

###

About Hooper

Since 1913, Hooper has grown to become a well-respected electric power and mechanical contractor. With headquarters in Wisconsin and regional offices in the states of Colorado, Florida and Ohio, Hooper provides a wide range of services to support commercial and residential clients.

Hooper’s areas of expertise include fabrication and installation of complex plumbing, process piping, fire protection, and HVAC systems as well as the construction of substations and high-voltage transmission and distribution lines. Hooper also actively provides power line clearance and deploys emergency storm response teams around the country to help restore power to communities ravaged by natural disasters. For homeowners in the Wisconsin region, Hooper’s Service Division provides 24-hour maintenance and repair on HVAC and plumbing systems. Businesses also benefit from these services in addition to fire protection options provided by Hooper’s certified technicians.

The firm’s Safety Empowered philosophy provides the knowledge, equipment, and investment needed to prevent harm and save lives both on and off the job site. Through its charitable foundation, Hooper is honored to provide essential funding to community nonprofits that support our neighbors in need. Built on a reputation of excellence and trust, Hooper plays an integral role in delivering the resources needed for people to live and work in comfortable, healthy environments. For more information, please visit hoopercorp.com.

Media Contact:

Amy Griffin

Director of Marketing & Community Relations

AGriffin@hoopercorp.com

Mobile: (608) 268-2103