

Types of Trades



Interested in the trades? Here are some ideas to learn more about different trades, how to get involved, and how to help your application stand out.

When you apply, include a cover letter, letters of recommendation, and a skills-based resume in addition to submitting documentation that you meet the minimum program requirements.

- **Construction Related Volunteer Opportunities**

Participating in these efforts shows commitment to community and your ability to work alongside others with tools. This is a great way to build the “hands-on” portion of your resume if you do not have prior trade-related experience. Document your hours and request a letter of recommendation if you feel you have earned one.

- **Industry-related Classes**

Industry-related classes will show your investment and motivation to learn more about the trades. A large number of industry-related classes such as welding, blueprint reading, basic electrical theory, and woodworking are available at local community colleges.

- **Pre-apprenticeships**

Pre-apprenticeships expose students to all of the building trades, and help students to become familiar with terminology, hand and power tool use, construction safety, and more.

- **Documentation of Hobbies**

Do you like to build and fix things? Do projects around the house? If so, take photos of your work, and add captions that describe the work you performed. Before and after photos are great. Include these with your application for apprenticeship.

- **Industry-related Work**

Build a documented history of working with tools or with construction materials, performing physical labor such as digging ditches, or working outdoors in all weather conditions. Include letters of recommendation that are signed and dated by the author, and on letterhead when possible. This demonstrates work ethic, attitude, and physical and mechanical ability.

AmeriCorps	http://www.nationalservice.gov
Constructing Hope	https://www.constructinghope.org/
Job Corps	http://www.jobcorps.gov
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc	www.tradeswomen.net
PCC Pre-Trade Orientation	www.pcc.edu/programs/apprenticeship/pre-trades.html
Portland YouthBuilders	www.pybpdx.org

Construction Related Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering for a construction-based nonprofit is a great way to build the hands-on portion of your resume with skills related to tool-use and working on a crew. Document your own hours. A letter of recommendation from one or more of these organizations will strengthen your application portfolio.

- **Habitat for Humanity:** www.habitatportlandmetro.org
Dedicated to fostering home ownership and improving our community by building simple, decent, affordable housing with a neighborhood emphasis.
- **REACH Community Development:** www.reachcdc.org
Creating quality, affordable housing and opportunities for individuals, families and communities to thrive.
- **Rebuilding Together Washington County:** www.togwc.org
Dedicated to providing home repair and rehabilitation to low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, veterans, and those with disabilities so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety, and independence.
- **Hands On Greater Portland:** www.handsonportland.org
Connects thousands of volunteers to projects every year.
- **Metropolitan Family Service:** www.metfamily.org
Helps people move beyond the limitations of poverty, inequity and social isolation.