

L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers Program



Partner Spotlight

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor (BGCLAH)

San Pedro and surrounding communities | 140 Students | Year-Round | Construction, Welding, Electrical and Plumbing

L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers Program

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools launched Skilled Trades Summers in 2021 to introduce high schoolers to in-demand careers and provide foundational skills prior to graduation. In 2026, 11 programs across L.A. County will offer:

- “Earn and learn” model for all participating high school students
- Intensive, hands-on training leading to high-value industry credentials
- Career readiness support

Program Features

- Program offered 6 weeks during the summer and year-round on Saturdays and during school breaks.
- Programs take place at AltaSea and the Pacific Maritime Association’s state-of-the-art training facility at the Port of Los Angeles.
- Career Readiness and Life Skills: one-on-one case management, personalized career plans, and employability skills.
- Certifications Offered: American Welding Society (AWS), National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), City of Los Angeles Welder Certification.

To see BGCLAH students in-action, watch our video [here](#).

To learn more about Skilled Trades Summers, please contact Senior Director of L.A. County Programs Belen Vargas bvargas@hftforschools.org and visit hftforschools.org/los-angeles-county.



About Harbor Freight Tools for Schools

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools is the flagship program of The Smidt Foundation, established by Harbor Freight Tools owner and founder Eric Smidt, to increase understanding, support and investment in skilled trades education for U.S. public high school students.