

L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers 2026

| SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION | WELDING | AUTOMOTIVE | CARPENTRY | CONSTRUCTION | PLUMBING |
| ELECTRICAL | CREATIVE ECONOMY | BUILDING INSPECTION | INDUSTRIAL FABRICATION |

This summer, 800 Los Angeles area high school students will receive and earn valuable industry credentials in construction, welding, automotive and other skilled trades through Harbor Freight Tools for Schools' L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers program.

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools launched the “earn and learn” program in 2021 to introduce high schoolers to careers in high-demand industries and provide them with work-ready skills before they graduate from high school. The demand for a new generation of skilled trades workers has only become more intense given L.A.’s urgent, immense infrastructure needs. 2026 marks the sixth year of the program and the largest cohort of students to-date across 11 program sites.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- **“Earn and learn”** model for all participating high school students
- **Intensive hands-on training** in diverse skilled trades, enabling students to complete a capstone project and earn high-value industry credentials that demonstrate their mastery of important technical skills
- **Career readiness support** where students learn durable skills critical to success in the workplace and prepare them for entry-level jobs after high school graduation

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.



Alliance for Community Empowerment (ACE) San Fernando Valley

SKILLED TRADE: Solar Installation
ENROLLMENT: 18
LENGTH: 5 weeks/144 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: Grid Alternatives Solar Intermediate Certification; OSHA 10



La Mirada High School

SKILLED TRADE: Welding; Auto Restoration; Community Impact Project
ENROLLMENT: 44
LENGTH: 4-6 weeks/100-120 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: OSHA 10; CPR/First Aid



Artesia High School

SKILLED TRADE: Welding; Auto Electrical
ENROLLMENT: 40
LENGTH: 6 weeks/200 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: American Welding Society; Automotive Service Excellence; CPR/First Aid; college credits (auto program only)



Long Beach City College

SKILLED TRADE: Electrical Technology
ENROLLMENT: 25
LENGTH: 8 weeks/218 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: "Advanced Standing" on IBEW Apprenticeship application; Certificates in Power Generation Technician and Robotics



Bell High School

SKILLED TRADE: Carpentry; Auto
ENROLLMENT: 24
LENGTH: 140 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: Credits toward high school graduation; OSHA 10



Otis College of Design & TGR Foundation* Westchester

SKILLED TRADE: Woodworking; Metal Fabrication
ENROLLMENT: 24
LENGTH: 3 weeks/90 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: OSHA 10; Otis College of Art & Design – Digital Badge in Design-Build Collaboration



Boys & Girls Clubs of the L.A. Harbor (Year-Round Program)

SKILLED TRADE: Construction; Welding; Electrical; Plumbing
ENROLLMENT: 140
LENGTH: 6 weeks/96 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: American Welding Society; National Center for Construction Education & Research; City of Los Angeles Welder Certification



Pasadena City College

SKILLED TRADE: Welding; Building Inspection; Industrial Fabrication; Construction Readiness
ENROLLMENT: 110
LENGTH: 6 weeks/120-160 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: college credits; Construction Readiness – First Aid/CPR Emergency Response Certification



BRIDGE Housing (Year-Round Program) South L.A.

SKILLED TRADE: Construction; Welding
ENROLLMENT: 120
LENGTH: 3 weeks/120 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: American Welding Society Safety; National Center for Construction Education & Research Safety



Port of Los Angeles High School (POLAHS)

SKILLED TRADE: Construction; Plumbing; Electrical; Welding
ENROLLMENT: 96
LENGTH: 6 weeks/96 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: American Welding Society; National Center for Construction Education & Research



California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) Bellflower

SKILLED TRADE: Residential Construction
ENROLLMENT: 20
LENGTH: 4 weeks/95 hours
CERTIFICATIONS: OSHA 10; CPR/First Aid



* New program in 2026