

You Can Get a Job!

Brought to you by the Youth Department of Lake County Workforce Development

The job market is tight, but it isn't impossible! Hundreds of Lake County youth will work this summer. Would you like to be one of them?

Create a plan! Start today!! Who would you like to work for? What kind of work would you like to do? Indoors? Outdoors? Lots of contact with people? Working with children? Elderly? What special skills do you have? Good at sports? Math? Musical instrument? Crafts? Working with your hands? **Put your plan on paper!** It is the best way to keep track of your progress!

Now, who do you know? Teachers? Pastors? Neighbors? Parents? Networking is important. Tell everyone you know what type of job you are looking for. If you tell your teachers that you are looking for ANY job, they might not be able to help you. But, if you tell them that you are looking for pet sitting/dog walking jobs, they are more likely to remember you when they hear of opportunities. Keep a list of everyone that you have spoken to.

Follow up! Getting a job is **your** job! Build and maintain a network. Reconnect with your contacts on a monthly basis. Ask them if they could recommend anyone who could help you with your job search! You are marketing yourself. Remember that McDonald's doesn't market their Shamrock Shake with only one commercial. They run their ads on TV and radio and in newspapers, magazines, and billboards. Perseverance is important!

14 & 15 YEAR OLDS

It can be tough to find your first job when you are 14 or 15. Employers might think you lack experience or a strong work ethic. Sometimes employers are not allowed to hire you for specific jobs. Young people under the age of 15 may have to get a **work permit**. Call the Regional Office of Education at 847-665-0603 or visit <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/275/Work-Permits-Age-Certificates> for more information.

Small local businesses, restaurants, and park districts are examples of places that will hire this age group. Your best bet might be to create your own business. Do you play a musical instrument? Teach kids in your neighborhood. Good at math? Be a tutor. Like to do crafts? Do a craft camp. Are you good at sports? Create a neighborhood "sports camp." Babysitting or pet sitting/dog walking are also great options. Take a wagon full of iced drinks to the area soccer fields and ball parks that don't have concession stands. Use your imagination. Perseverance, networking and creativity will go a long way!

Volunteer your time to gain valuable job experience. Area libraries, park districts, churches and summer camps have lots of opportunities where you can learn important job skills! You may not earn money, but volunteering will make it much easier next year when you are looking for a job.

16-18 YEAR OLDS

This age group is a little older and might have some formal job experience. Some of your experience might be volunteer work or clubs and activities that you are involved with at school. All of that information deserves to be on your resume. **And you should have a resume** . If you aren't sure how to create one, you can stop by the Job Center for a copy of our booklet "[Tips to Land Your First Job](#)" or visit the Job Center website, www.lakecountyjobcenter.com.

Six Flags Great America is a large employer of youth in Lake County. During the spring, they have several hiring events. Check their website: www.sixflagsjobs.com/greatAmerica/jobs. Be sure to arrive dressed to impress. NO SHORTS OR JEANS! You only have one chance to make a good first impression. Be prepared to answer questions about your customer service experience. Be sure you know **WHY** you'd be the perfect Great America employee.

Other suggestions: Go to your local mall, shopping center or downtown with a handful of resumes. Know which stores you want to apply to BEFORE you go and know something about your targeted stores. Going job hunting in a group will overwhelm employers, so go into the store alone and be sure to dress for success. Ask to speak with a manager or supervisor and let them know that you are interested in a job in their store.

Many jobs have online application processes. Two sites that specialize in hourly wage jobs are www.snagajob.com and www.workinretail.com. Most large stores have their own web sites. Check them out to find job opportunities.

18 YEARS OLD AND UP

If you have decided to embark upon your career and forgo additional education for now, the key to your success is creating a **stable job history** . Employers spend money hiring and training new employees. They want to invest their money in people who will stay and be worth the investment. Employees who stay less than two years are considered "job-hoppers." Job-hoppers are considered a risk or bad investment. How do you create a stable job history? Do your best in any job opportunity and document your successes. Identify a mentor or career counselor and talk with him/her before changing jobs.

Career Information Systems (CIS) offers free career assessments. [Log in](#) as an Illinois resident to take an interest inventory. Identify career clusters that match your interests and abilities. Within each cluster, you will find suggestions of jobs within the cluster. If you like a job, you are more likely to work harder and stay longer = SUCCESS!

Once you know the types of jobs you will enjoy and be good at, you can focus your attention on getting those jobs. Two sites that "collect" job openings from a variety of job boards are www.indeed.com and www.simplyhired.com. You can register to have emails sent to you for your job search.

Network, n etwork, network! Let people know that you are looking for work! [Sign up on the Job Center e-list](#) to receive our monthly schedule of events to help you with your job search.

Gain experience now to create career options for your future!

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