



Teen Job Hunt Tips

Summer is just weeks away and many teens will be looking for ways to earn extra income. With unemployment still near record-high levels, young job seekers will need to be resourceful when looking for work throughout the summer months. Here are some tips to help the teen in your life land that coveted job.

Get creative. There's no perfect job for everyone. Some job opportunities offer greater flexibility, while others offer easy access (you won't need a car), better hours, or a steady income. Decide which of these benefits is most important to you. Of course, you can explore opportunities at a retail outlet or food chain. However, did you know that a good, reliable babysitter generally makes more than a new employee at a fast food restaurant? Depending on your age and abilities, here are just a few creative services to consider:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1) Become a vacation nanny | 8) Apply at animal farms or the zoo | 15) Cleaning and yard work for churches |
| 2) Paint curb-side addresses | 9) Start a neighborhood "Play Time" | 16) Provide a driving service for seniors |
| 3) Provide child or senior daycare | 10) Pet sitting | 17) Mow lawns for shut-ins |
| 4) Delivery, errand, or pickup service | 11) Car washing/detailing service | 18) Grow a garden and sell vegetables |
| 5) Work for amusement parks | 12) Repair adult and children's bikes | 19) Work at agriculture farms or nurseries |
| 6) House cleaning or gardening help | 13) Computer tutoring for kids or adults | 20) Become a lifeguard |
| 7) Sell a service or product via the Web | 14) Power wash or paint houses | 21) Work for the local Parks Department |

Find the job. So, how do teens find these jobs or offer these services? Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Start telling all of your friends, relatives and neighbors about the kind of work you will provide. Perhaps their parents are hiring part-time help this summer. Talk to friends who have jobs you're interested in to see if there's another opening.
- 2) If you plan to work for yourself, create a simple flyer or business card. Office supply stores like Office Depot and Staples can help, or go online for low-cost solutions. GotPrint.net offers hundreds of pre-designed business card templates and quality printing of promotional products for low costs. Hand your flyers or business cards out everywhere you go, including local malls, parks, and other locations where people gather. Be sure to dress cleanly and neatly to make a good first impression. **Caution:** Some states restrict door to door sales; check out this Web site to see if your state is one of them: www.dol.gov/whd/state/doortodoor.htm.
- 3) Employment agencies may also be able to help with the job search and interview process. Most work with adults, but some offer part-time or temporary work for teenagers. Contact a temporary employment agency in your area such as Kelly Services, Manpower, Adecco, or Express Employment Professionals. These agencies can assist with résumés, interview skills, and placement services.
- 4) Look for a variety of openings at online sites such as SnagAJob.com, Teens4Hire.org, or GotAJob.com.
- 5) Google "Parks and Recreation" for your city or county. They often hire summer help. One student recently shared that he worked for the Parks Department's Summer Kids Program. This service was primarily offered to underprivileged kids ages 6-14 whose parents both worked and/or couldn't pay for daycare. He recommends this type of job: the hours were easy, and it was very rewarding.
- 6) If you know what you want to study in college, try getting a job doing something in that field (or a related area) that may give you some good experience. One high school student used this strategy and learned that he didn't want to work in that field. This experience saved him years taking the wrong classes (and saved his parents thousands of dollars). You can find internships for older students at Monster.com. Two additional internship resources: <http://careers.state.gov/students> and Quintessential Careers.

Avoid job scams. Summer is a time when many scam artists prey on young workers. While their tricks may not be illegal, many are designed to take advantage of unsuspecting teens. Watch out for these common ploys:

- 1) **The non-existent job:** Some are posted by placement services just trying to build their base of potential workers. Others require some type of fee as part of their screening process. Their goal is to collect fees from trusting teens and disappear with the money.
- 2) **Beware of the fake check:** Scam artists pretending to be employers often use students to cash fake checks and wire the criminals the money. A common fraud scheme is to *hire* students to receive checks in the mail, deposit the checks at *their* banks, and wire the proceeds to the company while keeping a small percentage for compensation. These "employers" offer a wide variety of convincing reasons why they need students to cash their checks.
- 3) **Work-at-home schemes:** This scam is designed to use your free labor, or take your money as their "set-up" fee. Examples to watch out for include envelope stuffing, product assembly, product repackaging/reshipping, medical billing, and shipping refund recovery.

Take the "20% Challenge!" Many teens are committing to save at least 20% of their income this summer. Visit your local bank or Credit Union to discuss the best place to save or invest your summer earnings!

"Find a job you like and you add five days to every week."

— H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

LFE Institute, Inc. • Workplace Financial Literacy Specialists • www.lfeinstitute.com

The LFE Institute has specialized in Workplace Financial Literacy since 1986 and sells no products other than unbiased education.

Have a comment or an idea for a future issue? Let us know at moneymminute@lfeinstitute.com.

© LFE Institute, Inc.