



Apprenticeship Information

Apply in person – Bring all scoring documents (see below for a complete list of documents and available points) with you on Wednesday between 9-11am or 1-3pm and fill out an application. Application score is set for six months by the documents submitted at the time of application. After six months further documents may be submitted to increase application score.

Applications are ranked based on points from documentation provided at the time of application (see list below). When there is more work than there are apprentices the apprenticeship will call applicants in for interviews beginning with the highest scoring applicants and working down the list.

Based on the combined score of application and interview applicants are invited to attend a five-day unpaid Industry Prep Class at the Training Center. This class provides them with safety classes as well as hands on learning to give them a brief overview of what ironwork is. If applicants successfully complete the Industry Prep Class and wish to move forward the Ironworkers Local #29 Hall charges an initiation fee and first month's dues which places them at the bottom of the out of work list as a first level Ironworker Apprentice.

Local #29 Apprentices are started at 1st step or 60% of Journeyman's wage. Their apprenticeship is reviewed every six months. If the apprentice has all progress reports turned in and a minimum of 800 hours on the job training they are graduated to the next step of apprenticeship and awarded an additional 5% of Journeyman's wage.

Employers contribute at an hourly rate to each Ironworkers' PTO fund; they report Ironworkers' employment hours to the Pacific Northwest Ironworkers Trusts and these hours are credited toward medical, dental, and vision insurance for the Ironworker as well as all of his/her dependents. When an apprentice achieves 3rd step or 70% of Journeyman's wage the employers also begin contributing to the Ironworkers pension and annuity.



Are You Ironworker Material?

If you possess the following qualities and are looking for a career that will maximize your potential, you just might have what it takes to become an ironworker.

- Do you like to be able to see the work you've done at the end of the day?
- Do you take pride in providing quality work that meets demanding standards?
- Do you like to work as part of a team?
- Do you like to work outdoors?
- Are you willing to do physically demanding work that requires you to use your mind too?
- Would you like to earn a respectable wage while going to school to learn new skills and perhaps even a college degree?
- Are you interested in a career rather than "just a job?"
- Do you enjoy new challenges?

Ironworkers work in many related sectors, including, but not limited to:

Structural Ironworkers

- Unload, erect, and connect fabricated iron beams to form the project skeleton.
- Work primarily on industrial, commercial and large residential buildings.
- Build towers, bridges, stadiums, and prefabricated metal buildings
- Erect and install pre-cast beams, columns and panels.

Reinforcing Ironworkers

- Fabricate and place steel bars (rebar) in concrete forms to reinforce structures.
- Place rebar on appropriate supports and tie them together with tie wire.
- Install post-tensioning tendons (cables) to place in concrete forms along reinforcing steel.
- Stress the tendons using hydraulic jacks and pumps after the concrete is poured and hardened

Welding and Burning Ironworkers

Welding and burning equipment are considered tools of the trade and used by structural, reinforcing, ornamental and rigging ironworkers to secure their work to the structure. Ironworkers can be tested to be designated a certified welder.

Rigging and Machinery Moving Ironworkers

- Load, unload, move and set machinery, structural steel and curtain walls.
- Work with power hoists, cranes, derricks, forklifts and aerial lifts.
- Have knowledge of fiber line, wire rope, hoisting equipment and proper hand signals.

Ironworking has many sectors. Each sector involves challenging and difficult work, often on tall structures at high elevations. Ironworkers must be willing to work as a team. They must be able to meet rigid standards and deadlines. They must have a good sense of balance and be alert to potential danger to themselves and others. The apprenticeship program includes comprehensive safety training.

Our organization is dedicated to the improvement of wages and working conditions for all people performing ironwork within our jurisdiction. We provide extensive training through our apprenticeship program. Our members are well trained and qualified to perform all aspects of the ironworking trade. Our signatory contractors perform high quality work, completing projects on time and within budget.



Ironworkers Local 29 Apprenticeship

What is an Apprentice?

An apprentice is an employee who learns a skilled trade through planned, supervised work on-the-job, while at the same time receiving related technical classroom instruction. Apprentices are required to sign a registration with their Joint Apprenticeship Committee/Trade Improvement Committee that spells out the requirements and expectations of an apprentice ironworker.

Apprentices are taught the proper use, care, and safe handling of the tools and equipment used in connection with their work and, of course, the important skills necessary to become a successful tradesperson.

While working on-the-job and acquiring skills, apprentices are a regular part of the work force on whom contractors and co-workers rely. But remember that apprentices are also required to attend ironworking school and complete the prescribed courses related to the trade in order to complement their on-the-job training. Apprentices will receive an evaluation about every 6 months to determine if they are learning the craft. If the on-the-job or schoolwork is not satisfactory, they may be dropped from the program or sent back to repeat that segment of training. If, however, the work is good they will receive a pay raise. That's right, pay raises usually occur every 6 months!

What can I expect of Ironworkers Local 29 Apprenticeship Program?

The Local 29 Apprenticeship is a 4 year program that provides on the job training in structural, reinforcing, ornamental, welding, and rigging. The actual length of training for each subject may vary depending on the predominant type of work available in the local area.

Apprentices also receive at least 204 hours of classroom and shop instruction during every year of training. The subjects taken in the shop and classroom complement the hands-on training received in the field. The subjects include blueprint reading, care and safe use of tools, mathematics, safety issues, welding and oxy-acetylene flame cutting.

What is expected of ironworker apprentices?

- Complete cooperation and willingness to learn
- Regular school attendance
- Dependability on the job
- The ability to work as part of a team
- The development of safe work habits
- Perform a day's work for a day's pay
- Be drug and alcohol free

The road to becoming a journeyman ironworker is through apprenticeship training. The Iron Workers apprenticeship program is a well-organized and supervised method of training people, with little or no knowledge of the craft, to become journeymen ironworkers qualified in all segments of the trade.

Apprentices earn while they learn, working on the job alongside the journeymen.

Graduating apprentices attain journeyman status and receive full pay for the skills they have earned. Ironworking has many sectors. Each sector involves challenging and difficult work, often on tall structures at high elevations. Ironworkers must be willing to work as a team. They must be able to meet rigid standards and deadlines. They must have a good sense of balance and be alert to potential danger to themselves and others. The apprenticeship program includes comprehensive safety training.

An Important Note

It is important to mention that an ironworker must be willing to work in high places, have a good sense of balance, and be alert to potential danger to themselves and others. However, the apprenticeship program includes safety training with OSHA Authorized Construction Trainers so that the danger is minimized.