

# APPRENTICESHIP

## South Bay Apprenticeship Coordinators Association Hands-on Career Expo

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It's an early Friday morning in October and yellow school busses take turns dropping off dozens of students. For the past 14 years, the South Bay Apprenticeship Coordinators Association (SBACA) has partnered with the Santa Clara County Construction Careers Association (S4CA) to host the Hands-On Career EXPO. Each year close to 200 high school students from across the Santa Clara Valley participate in a special career day experience where they get the opportunity to engage in a variety of building trades hands-on projects.

Several union building trades apprenticeship programs design simple projects that let students experience the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from completing a project with their own two hands. Plumbers from Local 393 instruct students on soldering copper pipe while sheet metal Local 104 has them assembling little metal toolboxes. Operating engineers Local 3 even set up a virtual backhoe where they can dig trenches.

Career counselors from participating schools continue to sign up their students year after year giving students the opportunity to make an educated choice about the career options available. Building trades contractors as well as the Division of Apprenticeship Standards also show their support by manning booths that explain the career and job opportunities available through apprenticeship.



Students learn how to weld at the Hands-On Career Expo. (Photo courtesy of SBACA)