



Helping Your Teenager

Land a Summer Job

By Tanya Scherschel

It won't be long until that final school bell rings, and you and your teenager will start thinking about a summer job. But don't wait too long to start looking. The sooner you begin the better.

Statistics show that summer youth employment has been dropping for the last decade and now stands at less than 50 percent. Not encouraging news if you also consider that several businesses, like community Parks and Recreation Departments, providers of long-time staple summer jobs like camp counselors, lifeguards, and concession stand workers, begin recruiting for their summer positions in January and February. So, what should a spring jobless teen and their parent do? Plenty!

Make a plan.

Don't fret if your kid didn't get that lifeguard gig he wanted. Brainstorm other places that hire teenagers. According to an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, "The sectors that traditionally employ younger workers are still the best bet: retail stores, hotels and restaurants." Other venues also endorsed included: fast-food restaurants, because the recession has made cheaper outings more appealing; seasonal entities like

ice-cream shops, and places in health care where, "teens under age 18 can find work as file clerks and cafeteria workers."

Networking isn't just for adults!

Networking, or talking to friends, has long been a jobseeker's best friend for one reason: it works. When your teen decides to look for a job, encourage them to share this with the people around them. Toss the net far and wide to include friends, teammates, neighbors, grandparents, coaches, guidance counselors, and affiliations through church. Perhaps your teen might consider changing their Facebook status to "unemployed but looking," and while they're online, have them check out www.Teens4hire.org. This free site offers searchable databases on places hiring teens in your area, answers questions regarding whether or not they need a job permit, and provides a host of other job seeking information.

Make sure your teen knows the businesses they're targeting.

A first impression is critical in landing a job, and a bad first impression is hard to take back. Before your teen even approaches the manager for

an application, have them drop in and familiarize themselves with the tempo of the workplace. Note how the employees are dressed. Slacks and a tie or a skirt might be warranted for an office job, but a crisp, clean polo and khakis may suffice for others. Note when the place is busiest. Asking for an application during lunch-rush at a fast food restaurant or during half-priced Tuesdays at your local aquatic attraction is not a good idea.

Make a resume.

Teenagers usually haven't acquired much formal work experience, but that doesn't mean they don't have plenty to offer. Putting together a resume with your teen, in fact, can be a very positive experience. Brainstorm with your child. Teenagers' familiarity with technology can be so second nature that they take it for granted, but you can point out that the skills needed to speak fluent HTML or locate a missing file using Windows Explorer are not exactly common knowledge. Consider all of your child's strengths: volunteer work, relevant studies, awards, and honors. Check out author and teacher Jeannie Withers at www.heygetajob.com for information about her teen job hunting book, *Hey, Get a Job!*, and to view her resume templates.

Start your own business.

Not ready for your teen to punch a time clock just yet? Starting a business as a lawn service provider, piano teacher, or a babysitter can be an appealing alternative to a traditional summer job, especially if your child is closer to a preteen than a teen. Make sure your teen has established a price for their service, knows what services they are including in that price, and that they can articulate this information to prospective clients when they call. Encourage your teen to spread word of their service through flyers they create and word of mouth. Want to really bump it up? Let them start a spread sheet so that



they have a tangible record of income and expenses.

The ability to earn one's own money, traditionally or through an entrepreneurial endeavor, is a huge step in the life of a young person. Watching your kid go to work for the first time is also a big deal for us parents. Our babies are growing up. But the next time junior asks you for a new pair of skates or the latest fashion, you won't have to point outside to the naked money tree. Getting them to relinquish their own money, however, may be just as fictitious.

Tanya Scherschel is a freelance writer in O'Fallon, IL. Her eldest child will begin working this summer as an umpire.

Visit www.AuburnOpelikaParents.com



Visit one of our neighborhoods today!

AUTUMN RIDGE
Decorated Model Home in Auburn
\$150s-\$250s

The Cottages at
Fieldstone
Swim Community in Opelika
from the \$100s+

VAM
VILLAGE @ MIDTOWN
Opelika Homes from the
\$110s-\$160s

In a **Woman-Centric™** home, thoughtfully designed home plans have been carefully selected and custom designed to offer more storage, flexible space and better flow for ease of daily living.

DanRic Homes is a family business that has been building in the Auburn-Opelika area for over 20 years.

the ONLY certified Women-Centric builder in the East Alabama/West Georgia area

Boasting an excellent home warranty department, DanRic is dedicated to providing you with a superior home building experience.





New Homes Under Construction NOW!

Visit the decorated concept home in Autumn Ridge to find out which Woman-Centric personality you are!

Open House Thursday-Sunday

exclusively
THREE



marketed by
SIXTY

www.concepttoclosing.com
334.887.3601

  

DanRic **Other Builders**

✓ Plenty of storage	?
✓ Space that grows with my family	?
✓ Real value I can see	?
✓ Unique spaces I will use	?
✓ Upgrades I care about	?
✓ Room for all of my shoes!	?
What's this?	<i>DanRic really gets my needs!</i>

Free Professional Ad Design

ADVERTISE HERE

***Moms, and their Families,
Are Standing By!***

Start Next Month - Call (334) 209-0552