

CAREER PATHS

Turn Hot Days Into A Cool Future

(NAPSA)—Planning ahead has its advantages—especially when searching for the summer job that's right for you. There are many things to consider—including location, hours, wages, etc.—and the search can be challenging. When you finally choose the right job for you, it may be the first of many stepping stones that can lead you down the path towards your goals. Following are some tips for finding a great summer job.

Scan part-time job listings or speak with a guidance counselor. Job fairs held at school or other locations provide the opportunity for you to seek out the individuals whose field interests you the most.

Browse corporate Web sites for more information on companies in the field you're interested in and look for part-time job postings and/or internships. The knowledge you gain will help you decide whether a job there would be the right opportunity for you. Networking with your parents, brothers, sisters, neighbors, friends and even businesses you frequent can help you obtain information about the job you'd like to have and how to go about getting it. They can also offer tips on interviewing and can stage mock interviews with you to hone your skills.

Good job opportunities can be closer than you think. Visit quick-service restaurants, movie theaters and retail stores in your neighborhood and look for "Now Hiring" signs. Sometimes, it's easy to just ask for an application during off-peak times and apply on-site. These types of jobs may offer perks such as flexible hours, training in a variety of areas, discounts, and the possibility to move up the management ranks in the future. Also, chains offer multiple locations in the event that you move or relocate for college.

Remember that it is very



A good summer job can help pave the way towards a great career.

important to come prepared when filling out a job application. Bring your Social Security card, birth certificate, a list of dates and places you've worked before, even information on odd jobs that you've had would be helpful. Also, make a list of your personal and academic references and contact the people on your list to make sure that they feel comfortable recommending you.

Once you've scheduled an interview with a potential employer, make sure that you research the field to determine the appropriate attire for both the interview and the workday. Researching the company and making a list of questions for the interviewer will serve to prepare you for the interview and lets the interviewer know you've cared enough to research the company. Sending a "thank you" note after your interview is a nice touch that may help keep you top of mind.

While you may not be sure what career path you'd like to follow for the rest of your life, finding an exciting summer job can certainly help define your future career goals. So, keep these tips in mind and get out there—your cool future can begin sooner than you think!