



EXPLORE THE TRADES

PLUMBING • HVAC • ELECTRICAL

**Explore The Trades Skills Lab,
Built by Ferguson**



Today's Topics

Who We Are: Explore The Trades

Eligibility: Who can apply?

Timeline: What is the timeline for this program?

Equipment: What is the process to order equipment?

Reporting: What is the follow-up for the program?

Questions: What questions do you have?

About Explore The Trades

To bridge the technical talent gap to the service trades of plumbing, heating, cooling, and electrical.

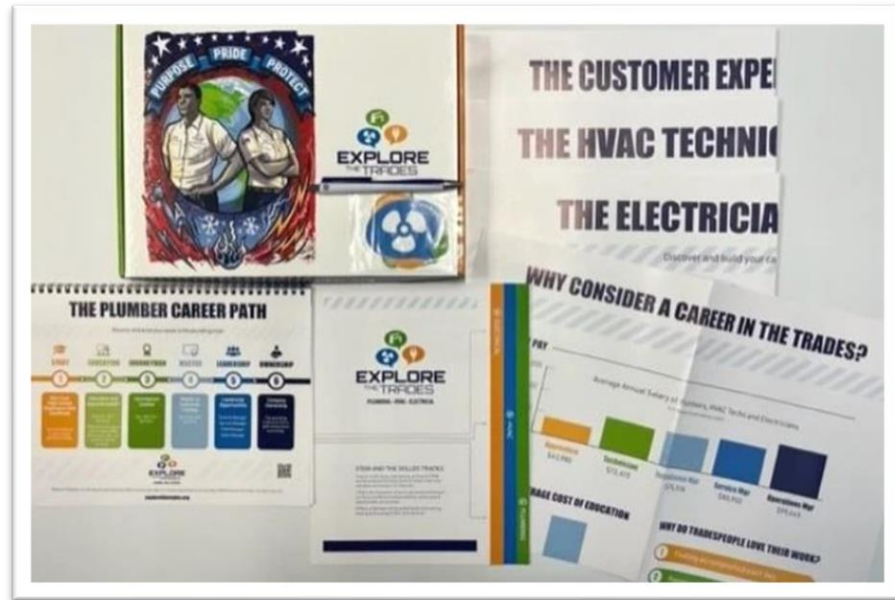


Photo courtesy of Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school



About Explore The Trades

Bring the skilled trades to your students and showcase an industry that is
"more than an elective."



The kit contains the following:

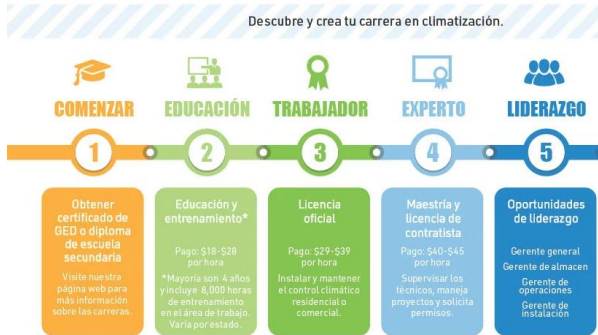
- Trades-specific career paths
- STEM and the skilled trades information
- Illustrations of how high school classes directly relate to the trades
- And more!

About Explore The Trades

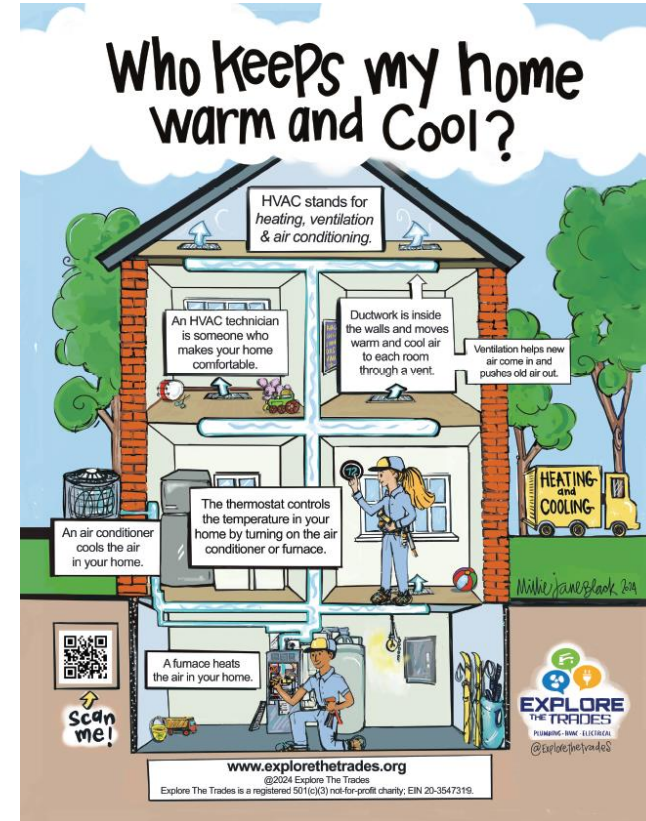
Two new additions to our skilled trades poster collection:

- Spanish-translated posters
- Poster series for kids (ages five-11)

TRAYECTORIA DE LA CARRERA DE HVAC



TRAYECTORIA PARA LA CARRERA DE ELECTRICISTA





About the Skills Lab Program

Explore The Trades and Ferguson partnered in 2021 to bring the skilled trades back into the classroom.

In 2024, SkillCat joined this initiative to bring technical training to students of recipient schools.

New this year, equipment grant support is now available for electrical programs.

 **FERGUSON**[®]

Skill**Cat** 



Skills Lab Recipients

2021-2022 Skills Lab Recipients

- Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center - Plumbing (TX)
- Washburn Tech - Plumbing (KS)
- Haney Technical College - HVAC (FL)

2022-2023 Skills Lab Recipients

- Bronx Design & Construction High School - Plumbing (NY)
- Carroll Co. Career & Technical Center - HVAC (MD)
- Franklin Co. High School - Plumbing (VA)
- Hastings High School - Plumbing (MI)
- Lyman High School - Plumbing (FL)
- Milford Mill Academy - Plumbing (MD)
- Roxbury High School - Plumbing (NJ)
- SVHEC Career Tech Academy - HVAC (VA)
- West Lincoln Middle School - Plumbing (NC)
- Western School of Tech & Env. Science - Plumbing (MD)



Skills Lab Recipients

2023-2024 Skills Lab Recipients

- Appomattox County High School - HVAC (VA)
- Bemidji High School - HVAC (MN)
- Callaway High School - HVAC (GA)
- Gateway Regional - HVAC (NJ)
- Ivy Academy - HVAC (TN)
- Lebanon County Career and Technology Center - Plumbing (PA)
- Mayfair School - Plumbing (PA)
- Poplar Bluff Technical Career Center - HVAC (MO)
- Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation - HVAC (MO)
- Saginaw Career Complex - HVAC (MI)
- Thomas J. Corcoran High School - HVAC (NY)
- Woodruff Career and Technical Center - HVAC (IL)



Eligibility

- Middle schools and high schools (grades 6-12) are eligible to apply.
- Includes public, private, CTE, or charter schools.
- Schools that have received a Skills Lab award within the past 24 months are not eligible to receive funding.



Photo courtesy of Milford Mill Academy, a 2022-2023 Skills Lab recipient school



Application Types

New Skills Lab Application

No existing plumbing, HVAC, or electrical equipment or education.

Refurbished Skills Lab Application

Existing plumbing, HVAC, or electrical training space.

The amount of new vs. refurbished labs is directly proportional to the number of applications.

Applications

- Emailed to maddys@explorethetrades.org
- Accessed: <https://explorethetrades.org/explore-the-trades-skills-lab/>



Timeline and Dates

March 31 -
Applications
close

May 7 -
Recipients
announced

July 31 -
Order skills lab
equipment

April -
Applications
reviewed

May - June
Work with local
Ferguson contact

**September -
December -** Skills
Lab is finished



Equipment Order and Payment

- Schools will work with their Ferguson store to select equipment.
- Once the final order is ready, your Ferguson contact will send it to Explore The Trades for final approval.
- For electrical Skills Labs, Explore The Trades will match the school with a vetted electrical supplier.
- Schools are not responsible for any transactions.
- Schools may use up to 10% of their final award to purchase materials that may not be available through Ferguson.
- All items must be ordered at the same time.



Photo courtesy of Saginaw Career Complex, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school

Additional Program Details

This program does not manage, or provide, curriculum or instructors to school recipients.

Schools are responsible for both in accordance with school district or Dept. of Education requirements.



Photo courtesy of Mayfair Elementary, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school



Follow-Up Reporting

- Recipients can expect to provide success metrics up to three times during the academic year.
 - Reporting will include:
 - Student enrollment in class
 - Student success rate for completing tasks and skills
 - Student placement in apprenticeship programs
 - Reporting metrics will be emailed to instructors throughout the year:
 - October 2025
 - January 2026
 - May 2026
- *Site visits (in-person) or virtual may be requested, if scheduling permits.



Submitted Questions

- Are there multiple electrical paths to take, union or non-union?
- Are schools in Canada eligible to apply for the Skills Lab program?
- Can trade schools or post-secondary schools apply for the Skills Lab program?



Questions





Contact Information

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