

Make This Summer Count: Turning Free Time into Opportunity

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Spring Break has come and gone, and summer is fast approaching. For many young people in our community, the season brings a valuable opportunity: free time to earn extra spending money and gain real-world experience.



But a summer job can be more than just a paycheck—it's a stepping stone to future success. Whether you're interested in healthcare, business, or another field, the right job can offer hands-on learning and insight into potential career paths.

Thinking about a future in medicine? Consider working at a local hospital or nursing home. Curious about business? A retail job provides a front-row seat to supply chains, customer service, and daily operations. Treat summer work as a learning experience, and you'll walk away with skills that will serve you for years to come.

Once you've found opportunities that match your interests, follow these steps to secure—and thrive in—a summer job:

1. **Start Early**- Don't wait until school ends to begin your job search. Many employers start hiring weeks in advance, and positions fill quickly. Apply as soon as possible, and don't be afraid to visit businesses in person. A face-to-face introduction can make a lasting impression, even if the application process is online.

2. **Dress the Part**- First impressions matter. While a full suit isn't necessary for most summer jobs, a neat, professional appearance is key. Choose clean, modest clothing and present yourself with confidence. Good manners and clear communication can set you apart from other applicants.

3. **Show Dedication**- Once you land the job, prove to your employer that they made the right choice. Show up on time, take your responsibilities seriously, and put in your best effort every shift. Even the simplest tasks can teach valuable lessons in work ethic, teamwork, and time management.

A summer job isn't just about earning money—it's also a chance to build smart financial habits. Use your paycheck to practice budgeting, saving, and understanding tax withholdings. Set aside some earnings for future goals, whether that's college, a car, or a rainy day fund. Developing good financial habits now will set you up for long-term success.

This summer, take advantage of the opportunity to gain experience, build skills, and strengthen your financial future. The choices you make today can shape your career and personal growth for years to come.

For more information or assistance, contact Community Vitality Agent Amanda Clasen at any Southwind District office or amclasen@ksu.edu.