

"Skills Work!®" Camp

Exploring Careers in Skilled Trades and Technologies One Hands-on Activity at a Time



Skills Canada – Ontario is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the development of youth and the prosperity of industry in Ontario. We strive to promote the skilled trades and technologies as viable, first choice career options for young people.

This summer program for **students in grade 7 & 8** was developed by Skills Canada – Ontario after the publication of a significant number of reports by industry, labour and government groups. These reports warned of a critical skills shortage and the need for a workforce with strong transferable skills.

The importance of the **"Skills Work!®" Camp** is two-fold. First, there is a need for elementary students to be aware of every career opportunity available to them prior to attending high school. Secondly, they also must be cognizant of the required skill development, both technical and soft, necessary to succeed in the changing world of work.

During the week-long day camp students participate in approximately four half-day skill development workshops hosted by local professionals. Examples of past workshops have highlighted the following sectors: Transportation, Construction, Manufacturing, Communication, and Service. Students have changed tires, laid bricks, prepared delicious meals, experienced radio programming, learned the basics of electrical wiring, assembled mosaic ceramic tiles, and have fabricated a variety of wooden items. Workshop content varies from one community to the next, depending on available facilities and volunteers.

In addition to workshops, tours of local industries are arranged. This enables students to see first hand the careers that are available within their own community and get a glimpse of an average work day for someone who is employed in the skilled trade sectors. These tours of local industries provide the link from what the students learned about at the camp to the world of work.

This one week **"Skills Work!®" Camp** runs Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, at a cost of **\$150/student**. The program is offered to students entering grade 7 or 8. There is a maximum of 16 campers in the program and registration information is available on-line at www.skillsontario.com