



Frequently Asked Questions 2024 HVACR & Plumbing Apprentices Contests

Q: Where are the competitions?

A: The competitions will be held in conjunction with PHCC's CONNECT 2024. This year's convention will be held at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, AL. The Contests will take place in an exhibit hall at the convention center.

Q: When do apprentices need to arrive and how long will they be away?

A: All apprentices need to be on site for orientation that starts on Monday, October 7, at 4:00pm. Winners will be announced at the Awards Breakfast, Thursday, October 10th. Contestants may leave after the breakfast ends.

Q: How do we register an apprentice for a competition?

A: The apprentices at the national competition are typically winners of state level events. To ensure that these state and local winners have a spot to compete, all contestants must be endorsed/certified by a PHCC Local/State Chapter or the United Association to be able to register.

If you do not have your apprentices name, you can still register and pay for a spot. Registrations are accepted on a first come first served basis.

Completing a registration form does not a guarantee a spot in the competition. All registrations must be verified by Foundation staff before they are confirmed.

Q: How many apprentices can a state chapter sponsor?

A: A state chapter can sponsor up to two apprentices for each competition. The Foundation will maintain a waiting list in case additional spots become available.

Q: How much does it cost for an apprentice to register for a competition?

A: Registrants will be invoiced \$400 per apprentice. Thanks to our generous sponsors, confirmed contestants will receive some assistance in covering travel and hotel costs via a flat-rate reimbursement after the contest.

Q: What tools will apprentices need to bring?

A: All the tools that the contestant needs are generously donated by sponsors such as Milwaukee Tool. Contestants may keep the tools after the contest. Please do not bring any extra tools as you will not be permitted to use them.

Q: What flight arrangements do contestants need to make?

A: Contestants should fly into Birmingham–Shuttlesworth International Airport. Please work with your employer and/or state PHCC association/Local UA to coordinate flights for arrival in plenty of time for orientation on Tuesday at 4:00pm and departure on Friday after breakfast.

Q: What hotels will we be using?

A: *Birmingham Convention Center Sheraton*
45203, 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd N.
Birmingham, AL 35203

Q: How do I make my hotel reservations?

A: PHCC will secure room blocks at each hotel, but **it is the responsibility of the apprentice and/or their sponsor to secure room reservations for the event.** Your hotel reservations should guarantee a Monday, October 7th arrival, through Thursday, October 10th check-out.

Please note: All apprentices must present a credit card at check-in to cover any incidentals charged to their room.

Q: How do the travel sponsorships work?

A: Each contestant is assigned a corporate sponsor. These corporate sponsorships allow us to provide a flat-rate reimbursement for travel expenses payable either to the apprentice's employer, state association/local UA, or apprentice, **depending on which entity is covering their expenses.** Contestants are assigned a sponsor by the PHCC Educational Foundation in August.

The flat-rate reimbursement for 2024 of \$1,600 is designed to assist with airfare, ground transportation, hotel, meals not covered during the event, and baggage/shipping. Local/commuting contestants will not receive a flat-rate reimbursement, and any reimbursement request will require submission of receipts for any expense incurred (eg. Parking, tolls, etc.). The apprentice must attend all of the scheduled events to be eligible for reimbursement. The reimbursement check is mailed out after the event.

Q: Does the sponsorship cover guests?

A: No. Sponsorships include contestant expenses only.

Q: Who is eligible for the complimentary guest registration?

A: Each apprentice will receive 1 complimentary guest registration for PHCC events in Birmingham, AL. The guest may be any non-contractor individual. It is intended to be registration for an apprentice's parent/spouse/significant other to support them as they compete. Guest airfare/travel costs and any additional hotel costs are the responsibility of the guest.

Q: Where can I find a schedule of the events at CONNECT?

A: The [convention schedule](#) can be found here:
<https://www.phccweb.org/events/schedule-at-a-glance/> - bookmark this page for updates to tours and events.

Additional information will be distributed to all confirmed contestants in advance of the contests.