



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Opportunities in the Trades

The opportunities today for a young person to enter the workforce are very abundant. Every trade I know of is looking for help. Just about the only requirements are that you need to show up and pay attention for an entry level job. That sounds easy but when an employer is buying your time for their use, they are buying 60 minutes in every hour except for any breaks that you may need. Blogging and Snap Chatting and Facebooking are not part of that. Neither are phone calls and texts. Those things can be a deal breaker for phone addicts and may lead to shortened employment. I know a lot of young people and I see a wide variety of personality traits. Some are admirable and some are red flags for an employer. Some of these people would not make it past an interview because nobody wants to waste their time training someone who isn't interested in anything except a paycheck. You need to bring some value to the table. Maybe not advanced skills but something to give an employer just enough confidence to wade through the paperwork and forms needed to put someone on the payroll. There usually is a probationary period where a new hire will be observed on the job. This takes another person away from their job to monitor a new employee. Safety training and equipment training even for someone mowing grass is necessary. These things all cost the employer money. Laborers need manual skills and appropriate workwear and need to be ready to get hot in the summer and cold in the winter. But many of these jobs allow some freedom to work independently and many times work in the outdoors. Because of the turnover rate in many trades, a new employee who keeps their nose clean and shows some initiative won't be the low person on the totem pole for long. Advancement can be very fast for someone who can follow instructions and manage their time properly. The road to the top is not as crowded as you might expect. All it takes is a little more enthusiasm and dedication than the average person is willing to give. The argument is usually that someone can't live on minimum wage. Maybe it is appropriate for someone who lives at home and can learn on the job and move up. Nobody without experience starts on any rung of the ladder but the first one so the sooner you get on that rung, the sooner you can get to the second one and so on and so on.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

DCNR Seeks Applicants For New Next Gen Council

By Wesley Robinson

HARRISBURG -- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn today announced the department is seeking applicants for its new Next Gen Council. The council has a goal to increase public participation and diversity at state parks and forests by gathering input from a diverse group of engaged individuals. The development of the council is part of DCNR's mission to conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment.

"DCNR is committed to expanding access to outdoor recreation and ensuring public lands are welcoming to all, which is why we are creating the Next Gen Council, with an eye for new approaches to engagement, programs and other opportunities," Dunn said. "This council is a great opportunity to learn more about DCNR and what it does, as well as a chance to provide fresh, new ideas to help promote our beautiful state parks, forests and other natural resources. We are excited to see this council come to fruition and are eager to accept applications and select the charter council."

DCNR is launching the Next Gen Council to increase public participation and expand its diversity of perspectives to help inform DCNR programs and operations, while also creating lasting engagement with young people. Those selected to the council would help inform the agency's work, advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and create lasting change and necessary conditions to ensure all Pennsylvanians feel welcome on public lands.

Apply for the council today. Applications will be accepted through Sunday, January 16, 2022.



"We want people who are willing to share their ideas and perspectives," Dunn said. "Experience in conservation and government is not needed to apply, but we do want people who are willing to work together towards the goal of supporting recreation for all, especially our future generations."

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about careers in conservation, gain additional knowledge and experience in outdoor activities and sports in parks, forests, and trails, the chance to meet and work with DCNR staff and leaders, obtain invaluable leadership experience, and help their communities by working with DCNR to serve all Pennsylvanians more effectively.

The council will meet once every three months. Meetings are virtual to reduce travel and promote accessibility. Council term is two years, and council members are expected to participate in at least 75 percent of meetings.

In addition to its commitment to diversity through its Next Gen Council, DCNR has led on DEI efforts among commonwealth agencies, creating a DEI-focused committee in 2017. The department also recently introduced "Nature for All" trailhead signs.

Working to make the outdoors more accessible for all people is a part of Pennsylvania's

Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Penn's Parks for All strategic plan.

Some actions DCNR has taken to address DEI on public lands include:

- An ongoing employee training program

- Utilizing GIS mapping to improve equity in grantmaking

- Studying park and open space access across the state

- Incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion into the daily work of all areas within the agency

Any questions about council, and your application materials, can be directed to Emily Hendrickson. For more information about DEI at DCNR, please visit DCNR's website.

SCHMIDT FUNERAL HOME, PC

"Affordable Cremations & Funeral Services"

202 West Street
Wind Gap, PA 18091
610-863-5429

Jane Follweiler, FD Supervisor

schmidtfuneralhomepc.com

VFW Post 739
Bangor, Pennsylvania

Dyle E. Bray - VFW Post 739
202 Washington Blvd, Bangor PA • 610-588-5555