

# Summer job hunt is on for youth

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Young people scramble for  
employment

By LAURELIN KRUSE

ALAMOSA – As the summer stretches into July, the prowl for summer jobs continues, especially among young people. This endeavor proves to be especially difficult as the summer progresses and job availability decreases. Job hunters find the most success in mid-spring, before school ends, the heat rises, and teenagers and young adults flock to businesses with their resumes. However, opportunities still lurk for those who procrastinated the job hunt.



*Photo by Laurelin Kruse/Marcus Newell spends his summer days earning money at McDonalds. He has been employed since last June. "Hard work teaches responsibility," said Newell.*

College and high school students who cannot continue working through the school year find it especially difficult to obtain seasonal jobs. "After coming home for the summer, I realized I needed some extra money, not only for school next year, but for doing things over the summer as well," said Spencer Everett, a sophomore at CU-Boulder and employee at Garrison Fence. Everett put in numerous applications and did odd-jobs before finding full-time employment.

Young people in the workforce earn money while gaining skills essential for adulthood. "Jobs teach good work ethics and give good training to students," said Barbara Pacheco of the Alamosa Workforce Center.

For many, a summer job provides a peek into self-sufficiency. "Having a job has made me more responsible, and I like having my own money. It makes me feel more independent," said Toni Pizza, a senior at Alamosa High School and McDonalds employee.

Many teenagers and young adults know little about searching for a job. The Governor's Summer Job Hunt, sponsored by the Alamosa Workforce Center, helps connect young people, ages 14-22, with employment opportunities. The program contacts employers who may be interested in hiring youth. Available jobs range from mowing lawns to office work.

Young people in the workforce face obstacles such as child labor laws and limited training, which can deter employers from hiring teenagers. Despite this, many opportunities exist. "For the most part I think employers are willing to hire the youth," said Pacheco.

Finding a job can be confusing for young people. In addition to employment connections, the

Governor's Summer Job Hunt offers job readiness workshops and training. Classes, mock interviews, resume reviews, and workshops help prepare inexperienced youth for the workforce by equipping them with skills essential for success in job searches and the workplace.

Young people in need of help searching for a summer job can contact Barbara Pacheco at the Alamosa Workforce Center at (719) 589-5118.

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