

Cool Tips For a Hot Summer Job



If you're a teenager looking for a part-time or summer job, there's some good news and some bad news. First, the bad news—Utah and the rest of the nation are just starting to dig their way out of a long and deep recession and jobs have been scarce.

Now, the good news—many of the industries that usually hire teenagers are starting to recover. In other words, finding a summer job this year should be easier than it was last year. Plus, there's a lot of turnover in the types of jobs that hire teens, so the odds of finding work are better than you might think.

Now, I don't have much space in this article. So what's the most important advice I can give you for your job search?

- Start looking for a job NOW. Many employers have already started to look for summer hires.
- Tell everyone you know (friends, parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, church leaders, neighbors, etc.) that you are looking for work. This is the best way to find a job.
- Go to the following web site for tips on how to dress, interview, prepare a resume, and look for work: <http://justforyouth.utah.gov/employment.htm>.
- Look for work online:
<https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utahjobs>
<http://www.careerbuilder.com>
<http://www.monster.com>
<http://www.govtjobs.com>
- Hit the streets. Apply for employment at places that typically hire people under 20—fast food restaurants, stores, landscaping businesses, motels/hotels.

Finally, I thought I'd share with you some advice from a person who actually hires teens for summer jobs. My daughter has a summer job as an assistant manager at the local swimming pool and has helped hire numerous lifeguards and other pool staff. Here are some of her interview "do's and don'ts."

DON'T dress like a slob. Don't show too much skin and do sit modestly. **DO** comb your hair, brush your teeth, and dress a step higher than the standards for the job. This isn't a fashion show, it's a job interview. Dressing appropriately shows the employer you know how to behave appropriately on the job. If you're not sure what to wear, ask a working adult or even the person who calls to set up the interview.

DON'T give one-word answers. **DO** take the time to explain why you would be a good employee. An employer doesn't know about you unless you tell them.

DON'T be late. Showing up late to the interview is a pretty good indication that you're not responsible to show up to work on time.

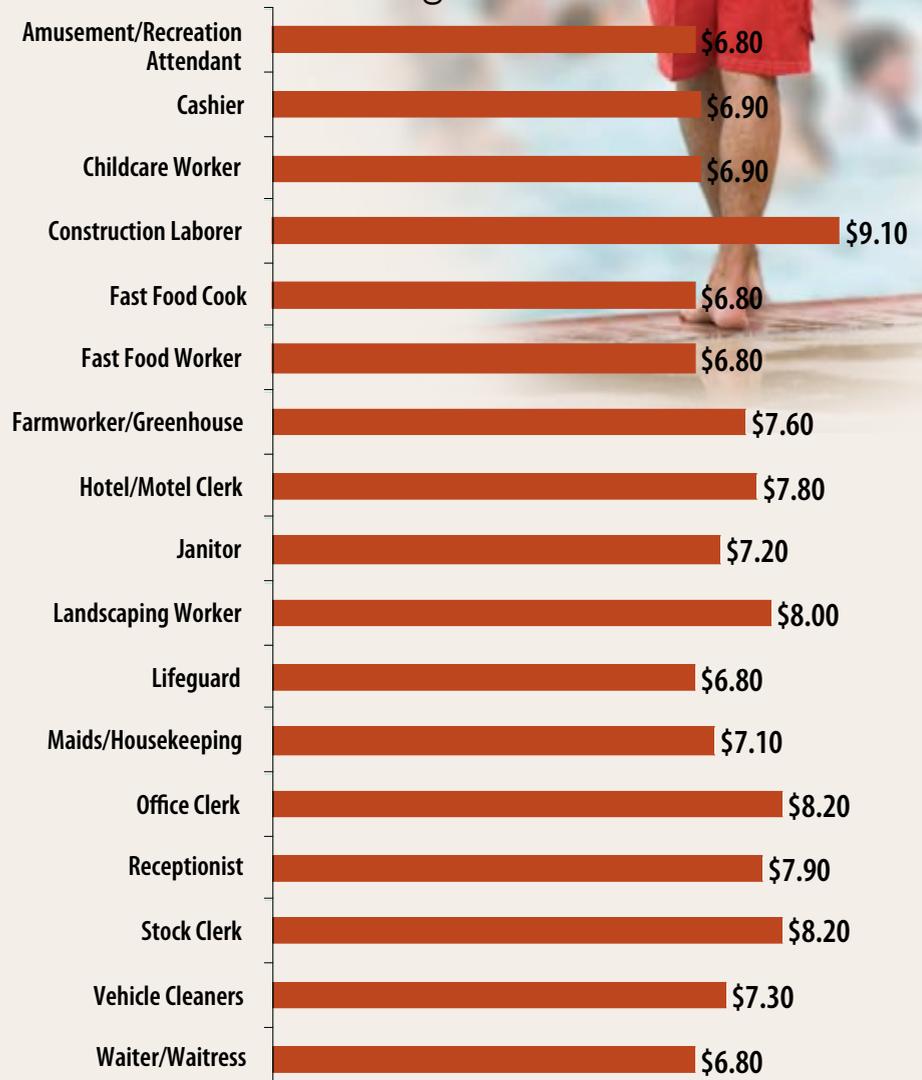
DON'T show up on the wrong day. Okay, you guys all have cell-phones and know how to work them. Make sure you accurately record the interview time and date. If you do forget, call and check.

DON'T ask for half the summer off. An employer is hiring you to work. If vacations, sports, or other activities will require a significant time away from the job, you probably won't be hired.

DON'T expect to be rehired if you were a poor employee last year. Once you have a job, work hard, show up on time, work your shift, and don't cause trouble. If you act responsibly, employers will want to hire you again next year. 📍



Utah Inexperienced Wages*



*The wage for new workers entering the occupation--reflects the average of the wage estimates of the bottom third of the wages of the workers.
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services; May 2008.