



## UA 400 Pipe Trades Holds Welding Merit Badge Clinic for 192 Boy Scouts at Camp Rokilio

**Kaukauna, WI (April 28, 2021)** — [UA 400 Pipe Trades](#) and the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA) held a Welding Merit Badge Clinic on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at Camp Rokilio in Kiel, Wisconsin. A total of 192 [Boy Scouts from Bay-Lakes Council](#) participated in the clinic with UA 400 members introduced youth ages 11-17 to the fundamentals of welding, practical welding skills and careers in the pipe trades. UA 400 donated all materials, hand tools, vices and manpower, all welding equipment including 12 diesel-drive welders were provided courtesy of CR Meyer, and all protective equipment including weld hoods, weld coats, gloves and safety glasses was donated by [Tweet/Garot Mechanical](#), [Ahern](#) and [AZCO](#).

"Helping is what we do! It's so cool to be a part of this event," said UA 400 Business Manager Trevor Martin. "We get the opportunity to show 192 scouts what welding and the pipe trades is all about while helping them earn a merit badge. These scouts will walk away from the event with a better understanding of the trades and welding. Hopefully, some day we see them again as an apprentice working for one of our great contractors."

UA 400 members followed the merit badge outline provided by the Boy Scouts of America. For their welding project, UA 400 welders demonstrated the shielded metal arc welding (SMAW) process, also known as stick welding. Other requirements for the welding merit badge included general safety precautions, appropriate safety gear, proper care and storage of welding equipment, welding terminology, career opportunities in the pipe trades and the final welding project. The clinic was designed to immerse the scouts in welding for an entire day. Each scout completed four different types of welds on their material including two fillet welds, one lap joint, and the scout's initials. The UA 400 welding department and fabrication apprentices donated the material and time assembling the pieces.

"Whenever local companies or organizations partner with Scouting, it has lasting positive impacts on the development of the youth we serve," said Dan Skrypczak, civic service and activities chair for Gathering Waters District of Bay-Lakes Council Boy Scouts of America. "Merit badges are designed to expose the kids to a wide variety of subjects, vocations, and skills that will hopefully spark their sense of discovery and inspire them to learn more about the subject matters that resonate with them. If just one of these kids discovers a fulfilling vocation in a high-demand skilled trade because they got to try welding at a camporee, we'll have changed a life for the better. That's why great people like the folks at UA 400, CR Meyer, AZCO, Tweet Garot and Ahern generously volunteer their time, treasure and talent to provide opportunities,



many of these kids likely wouldn't have if it weren't for Scouting and the awesome partnerships we depend on to fulfill our mission."

UA 400 offers five-year, paid apprenticeships and training with classroom instruction from UA Certified instructors and on-the-job training alongside experienced UA journeyworkers and apprentices. UA 400 also offers a Youth Apprenticeship Program for junior and senior high school students.

"Currently, UA 400 has a Youth Apprenticeship Program for high school students," said Martin. "We've rolled out our new career portal for entry level applicants. It's the first step along the pathway to an apprenticeship."

DJ Kloida, UA 400 youth apprentice coordinator and member, shared a few comments from two Scouts he who attended the welding clinic. A nine-year-old boy said, "I didn't know much about welding, but now I am very fascinated by it and would love to do it and get paid for it!" Another scout said, "Is this what you guys really do? I love this."

"CR Meyer values partnerships with great organizations like the Boy Scouts of America and UA Local 400 Plumbers and Steamfitters," said Yates Vanden Heuvel, CR Meyer manager of labor relations – UA pipefitters. "These kids are all at an age where they are beginning to decide which career path they may take. By attending the clinic, kids will have the opportunity to receive hands on welding experience. We believe that going into the trades can provide an excellent future and want to make sure they have the opportunity to learn about them."

For more information, visit the UA 400 Career Portal <https://bit.ly/2QUY1kj>.

#### **About UA 400 Pipe Trades**

The UA 400 Pipe Trades, headquartered in Kaukauna, Wisconsin with an office in Fond du Lac, is comprised of approximately 2300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. The organization is affiliated with the United Association of Plumber and Pipefitters with an estimated 345,000 membership throughout the United States and Canada. The group's mission is to be the preferred choice for industries, employers and workers specializing in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR service and pipe fabrication as well as training for its members and qualified manpower to their 105 signatory contractors. The UA 400 takes pride in their partnerships and contributions to serve local communities with organizations such as Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Special Olympics, Rebuilding Together, Heat's On Project, Harbor House and Salvation Army. To keep up with the latest news and to learn more about UA 400, visit <http://www.ua400.org> follow us on Facebook and YouTube.

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