

First taste of having a job

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Kirk Barron/Appeal-Democrat

Summer jobs

Adrienne Storment, 16, pours hot fudge onto a cup of ice cream during her second day on the job under the watchful eye of Jonelle Johnson, 18, at Brock's Ice Cream Palace in Yuba City Tuesday, June 23, 2015.



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reduced hours when school is in session.

Brock's Ice Cream Palace owner Eric Claydon takes a big picture approach to his summer hires. He is not interested in seasonal workers.

"Even though we're busiest between May and September, most of my kids work dur

ing school," Claydon said of the Yuba City parlor. "That's what we're looking for, as long as they do a good job for us, they keep working here. Some have worked here four, five or six years."

Claydon tries to hire between the ages of 16 and 18 because the shop is busiest during the summer months when the students have the most time, and the winter slow-down coincides with the students' need for reduced hours.

On Tuesday, just two days into her first job, 16-year-old River Valley student Adrienne Storment was busy learning how to operate the cash register.

"I'm a little nervous, but excited," Storment said. "It's a fun environment and, of course, I like ice cream."

Jonelle Johnson, an 18-year-old recent Yuba City High graduate, guided Storment through her second day at the shop. The other two employees working the front counter are also students, MyKora Potter, 17, who is home-schooled, and the owner's son, Daniel Claydon, who is entering his senior year at Sutter High.

Nerve-wracking challenge

Finding a summer job can a nerve-wracking challenge for high school students. Many businesses will not consider hiring anyone under the age of 18, however there are plenty of options out there, Colusa County One-Stop Employer Services Coordinator Karen Peters said.

"I always tell kids, especially students who don't have a lot of work experience, to talk to friends, family and neighbors," Peters said. "A lot of times during the summer employers will hire kids to do special projects, like cleaning up around a shop or helping with filing. The only way to know about those jobs is to ask."

Going door to door is another way to find summer work. When doing so, bring a resume, letters of recommendation and dress similar to how the employees dress, Peters said.

Even without prior work experience, a letter of recommendation from a coach, or from doing community service, can help.

"The majority of kids do not have a resume in their hands," Peters said. "The extra effort makes the employer think, 'This kid follows through, they might be a good bet.'"

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By Kirk Barron/kbarron@appealdemocrat.com

After spending summer breaks landscaping and doing construction work with his father, 17-year-old River Valley High student Iran Acosta found another traditional summer job, but with less emphasis on manual labor.

Acosta took a three-day lifeguard course in which he learned CPR and first aid and joined the staff at Gauche Aquatic Park in Yuba City.

"I just wanted to try something different and have a new experience," Acosta said as he stood watch over the Sprayground on Tuesday.

GAP employs 25 lifeguards and 10 swim instructors, the majority of whom are high school students, and many of its managers had their start while in high school, GAP manager Allison Sawyer said.

Sawyer, 20, spent four years as a lifeguard and returned as a manager this summer while on break from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

"I started when I was 16, as soon as I was able to work," Sawyer said.

Year-round summer jobs

Many teenagers get their first taste of employed life during the summer months. Seasonal jobs are one option, though many find year-round work that has