



## Frequently Asked Questions 2025 Plumbing Apprentices Contest

**Q: Where is the contest?**

A: The **plumbing** contest will be at PHCC CONNECT 2025. This year's convention will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI.

*A demo of the new and improved HVACR contest, redesigned by members of PHCC SD, will be exhibited in the contest area at CONNECT 2025. PHCC SD will host the first pilot of the redesigned contest at their state convention in February 2026.*

**Q: When do apprentices need to arrive and how long will they be away?**

A: All plumbing apprentices need to be on site for orientation that starts in the afternoon on Monday, October 27th. Winners will be announced at the Awards Breakfast, Thursday, October 30th. Contestants may leave after the breakfast ends.

**Q: How do we register an apprentice for a contest?**

A: The apprentices at the national contest are typically winners of state level events. To ensure that these state and local winners have a spot to compete, all contestants must be endorsed/certified by a PHCC Local/State Chapter or the United Association to be able to register.

*If you do not have your apprentice named, you can still register and pay for a spot. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis. A waiting list will be maintained once the registration list is full.*

*Completing a registration form does not a guarantee a spot in the contest. All registrations must be verified by Foundation staff.*

**Q: How many apprentices can a state chapter send?**

A: A state chapter can send up to two plumbing apprentices.

**Q: How much does it cost for an apprentice to register for a contest?**

A: Registrants will be invoiced \$300 per apprentice. [Register your apprentices with this form!](#)

**Q: What tools will apprentices need to bring?**

A: All the tools needed for the contest are generously donated. Please do not bring any extra tools as you may not be permitted to use them.

**Q: What flight arrangements do contestants need to make?**

A: Contestants should fly into Grand Rapids Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR). Plan to arrive early for orientation on Monday afternoon, with departure on Thursday after breakfast. GRR is 14 miles from the hotel with no shuttle service.

**Q: What hotel will we be using?**

A: *Amway Grand Plaza, Curio Collection by Hilton*  
187 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Q: How do I make my hotel reservations?**

A: PHCC will secure room blocks at each hotel, but **it is the responsibility of the apprentice and/or their sponsor to secure room reservations for the event.** Your hotel reservations should guarantee a Monday, October 27th arrival, through Thursday, October 30th check-out.

A reduced room rate of \$224 plus applicable state and local taxes has been secured for the PHCC CONNECT 2025 Conference. The hotel discount rate deadline for the CONNECT hotel is Thursday, September 25, 2025, or until the block sells out.

**[Book your room HERE!](#)**

Please note: All apprentices must present a credit card at check-in to cover any incidentals charged to their room. [Click Here for more Hotel & Travel information](#)

**Q: How do the travel sponsorships work?**

A: Each contestant is assigned a corporate sponsor by the PHCC Educational Foundation prior to the contest. These generous corporate sponsorships allow us to provide a flat-rate reimbursement for travel expenses payable either to the apprentice's employer, state association/local UA, or apprentice, depending on which entity is covering their travel and hotel expenses.

The flat-rate reimbursement for 2025 of \$1,600 is designed to assist with airfare, hotel, baggage, shipping, and meals. Local/commuting contestants will not receive a flat-rate reimbursement, and any reimbursement request will require submission of receipts for any expense incurred such as mileage, parking, and tolls. The apprentice must attend all of the scheduled events to be eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursements are paid after the conclusion of the event.

**Q: Does the sponsorship cover guests?**

A: No. Sponsorships include contestant expenses only.

**Q: Who is eligible for the complimentary guest registration?**

A: Each apprentice will receive 1 complimentary guest registration for PHCC events in Grand Rapids, MI. The guest may be any non-contractor individual. It is intended to be registration for an apprentice's parent/spouse/significant other to support them as they compete. Guest airfare/travel costs and any additional hotel costs are the responsibility of the guest.

**Q: Where can I find a schedule of the events at CONNECT?**

A: The [convention schedule](#) can be found here:  
<https://phccconnect2025.eventscribe.net/index.asp> - bookmark this page!

**Additional information will be distributed to all confirmed contestants in advance of the contests.**