



Frequently Asked Questions

2026 Plumbing Apprentice Contest

Q: Where is the contest?

A: The plumbing contest will be at PHCC CONNECT 2026. This year's convention will be held at **Baird Center in Milwaukee, WI.**

Winners of the National HVAC Contest that was held in Deadwood, SD in February 2026 will be announced and recognized during the awards ceremony.

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 at **4pm Monday, October 19th.** Winners will be announced at the Awards Breakfast, Thursday, October 22nd at 9am. 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.

[Register your apprentices with this form!](#)

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 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.

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 **Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE).** Plan to arrive early for orientation on Monday afternoon, with departure on Thursday after breakfast ends at 10:30am. MKE is 8 miles from the hotel with no shuttle service.

Q: What hotel will we be using?

A: Hilton Milwaukee City Center
509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203

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 19th arrival, through Thursday, October 22nd check-out.

A reduced room rate of \$229 plus applicable state and local taxes has been secured for the PHCC CONNECT 2026 Conference. The hotel discount rate deadline for the CONNECT hotel is Monday, September 28, 2026, 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 2026 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 Milwaukee, WI. 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://phccconnect2026.eventscribe.net/> - bookmark this page!

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