Frequently Asked Questions

2027 National HVACR Apprentice Contest

Q: Where is the competition?

A: The competition will be held in conjunction with the SDAPHCC Annual State Convention at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD.

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

A: All apprentices should plan to arrive at the Rapid City, SD airport by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 2. This will allow them the needed time to be on site for orientation that night at 7:30 pm. Winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation on Thursday, March 4 at 5:30 pm. Contestants may leave after the presentation.

Q: What tools will apprentices need to bring?

A: All the tools that the contestant needs are generously donated by sponsors. 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 Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP). Plan to arrive by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 2 which will allow enough time for them to attend the orientation at 7:30 pm that night. The hotel is a one-hour drive from the airport.

Q: How do I get from the airport to the hotel?

A: It takes about an hour to drive from the airport to the hotel. Attendees can either use the complimentary hotel shuttle service or rent a car.

Shuttle Service - The Lodge provides a complimentary shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. Arrangements need to be made in advance:

- To reserve a ride, contact the hotel at 877-393-5634 and provide them with your name, email, phone number, arrival date, arrival time, and airline.

Rental Car - There are several car rental options available at the Rapid City Airport.

Q: What hotel will we be using?

A: The Lodge at Deadwood, 100 Pine Crest Lane, Deadwood, SD 57732

Q: How do I make my hotel reservations?

A: SDAPHCC will secure a room block at the hotel, but it is the responsibility of the apprentice and/or their employer to secure room reservations for the event. To make a reservation, **call the hotel at 877-393-5634**. Be sure to mention the SDAPHCC room block and reduced room rate of $99 per night.

Your hotel reservations should guarantee a Tuesday, March 2 arrival. Depending on your departing flight, you may check-out on Thursday, March 4 or Friday, March 5. The hotel discount rate deadline for is Thursday, January 14, or until the block sells out.

Please note: All apprentices must present a credit card at check-in to cover any incidentals charged to their room.

Q: How does the travel reimbursement work?

A: PHCC Educational Foundation will provide a flat-rate reimbursement of $1,600.00 per apprentice to assist with airfare, ground transportation, hotel, meals not covered during the event, and baggage/shipping.

The apprentice must attend all of the scheduled events to be eligible for reimbursement. PHCC Educational Foundation will provide the reimbursement after the event.

Q: Who is eligible for the complimentary guest registration?

A: Each apprentice will receive 1 complimentary guest registration for SDAPHCC convention events in Deadwood, SD. 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.

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