



Apprenticeship Profile: Zach Hallstrom

Zach Hallstrom, a fourth-step apprentice lineman, strapped a GoPro camera to his hard hat and proceeded to climb an electrical pole. “I wanted to capture what this work is all about and share it with others,” explained Zach, who took time off from his on-the-job training to share the following comments about his career choice.

What attracted you to a career as a lineman?

For starters, I had some uncles and cousins in the trade. Based on their experiences, I knew it was a career option that would reward me with solid earning potential, great benefits and steady work. After all, everyone needs electricity, so I’ll never be out of a job!

What do you like most about being an apprentice lineman?

There is always something new with his job. If it’s not the type of work you are doing, it’s the various locations in which you might be working.

What is the biggest challenge you face as an apprentice?

The work can take you anywhere in the country, and living on the road could be tough for some people, but it’s worth it. I have had the opportunity to work close to my home in Minnesota and as far away as Virginia.

How dangerous is the work?

There is definitely a risk working with electricity and from heights. But if you are aware of the dangers and follow the safety rules, you can lower the chance of an accident. The apprenticeship training program continues to teach me valuable safety rules that I use every day on the job.

How important is a supportive family?

I could not be doing this without the support of my wife. She knows it will be rough for a few years, especially with a young daughter, but once I’m through the program, it will definitely be worth the sacrifices. Of course, I am also fortunate to have the encouragement of family members who are in the trade.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I would like to travel a bit to see the country, but eventually I hope to settle back in Minneapolis area to be closer to family. I will continue to work in the electrical construction industry, and I am certain there will always be enough work to keep me busy.

Any final thoughts for prospective apprentices?

Unlike other career opportunities that require years of school and experience before you can land the job you want, and unlike college that requires a substantial financial investment, the apprenticeship program allows you to earn a high wage while gaining the experience and knowledge needed to succeed as a journeyman lineman. Granted, it requires hard work and dedication, but if it were easy, everyone would do it. Here’s your chance to be among a select group of professionals who contribute to the quality of life for individuals and businesses throughout the country.

More About The Missouri Valley Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program:

The apprenticeship program based in Indianola, Iowa, is one of seven locations operated by the organization. The others are in the states of Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Iowa program occupies a training facility, which includes an outdoor pole yard. The Iowa program trains thousands of apprentice linemen each year.

For additional information, or to schedule a visit to our training facilities, contact

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MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

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