SkillBridge

FROM THE VIDEO: THE PAID PROGRAMS MOST STUDENTS MISS

Paid Summer Internships and Jobs for High Schoolers

Summer 2027. The pay, the deadlines, and how hard each one is to get.

We checked these programs on their official websites on November 4 and 5, 2026. The Boston and Smithsonian entries say what we could not confirm. If a 2027 date is not posted, we show the last date we could find. We left out anything that charges tuition.

How to use this list

Pick your part, then apply to more than one. Nearly every famous program is hard to get. For most students, the city programs in Part 2 are likely the best shot.

- Better odds: a big city program or a lottery. Still no guarantee.
- Competitive: about 1 in 5 to 1 in 10 get in, or the program calls itself competitive.
- Long shot: about 1 in 20 or harder.
- No numbers: the program does not publish them, so plan as if it is competitive.

Next deadlines

Nov 30: Navy SEAP
Jan 11: Air Force Research Lab
Jan 24: Hutton Fisheries
Jan 26: NIH (seniors only)
Feb 5: Memorial Sloan Kettering
Feb 15: UCSF and Salk Institute
Feb 27: Baltimore YouthWorks
Mar 1: NASA (seniors only), Fermilab PRISM

Part 1: Open to students in many states

US NAVY

1 Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP)

Official page

Pay $4,000 stipend for about 8 weeks

Deadline November 30, 2026. Open now.

Who Current high schoolers who finished 9th grade and will be 16 by the start. Graduating seniors can apply. US citizens, with some lab exceptions. Labs are around the country and you handle your own transportation.

How hard **Competitive.** About 300 spots across 38 labs. No applicant numbers published.

US AIR FORCE

2 Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Scholars

Official page

Pay $506.80 a week for high schoolers at most sites, based on the latest session

Deadline January 11, 2027. Open now. AFRL says dates can vary by site.

Who Upper-level high schoolers, 16 by the deadline, or 18 for California sites. US citizens only. Full time at an AFRL site, so check which sites have high school topics. You must be willing to relocate and arrange your own housing. Background check required.

How hard **No current numbers.** Mentors rank applicants on STEM experience, classes, GPA and resume. Add a recommendation letter.

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

3 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

Official page

Pay $3,000 stipend over 8 weeks at 32 hours a week

Deadline Opens November 23, 2026 and closes January 24, 2027.

Who Current juniors and seniors (classes of 2028 and 2027). One FAQ answer says 16 by your start date and another says 16 by June 1, so go by June 1 to be safe. No science prerequisites. Available in all 50 states, placed within a 30 to 45 minute commute. A local mentor is not guaranteed. The program's main goal is reaching students from groups underrepresented in fisheries science.

How hard **Competitive.** 30 students from 256 applications in 2022, about 1 in 8.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

4 NIH Summer Internship Program (seniors only)

Official page

Pay $2,840 a month for high school graduates on the current table, updated yearly

Deadline January 26, 2027, noon ET. Letters due February 2. Open now.

Who Current seniors who graduate before starting. 18 by September 30, 2027. If you are 17 on June 1, you must live within 40 miles of an NIH campus. US citizens or permanent residents. No housing provided. Proof of health insurance required.

How hard **No official numbers.** Researchers pick their own interns, so email the labs you want.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

5 Youth Conservation Corps

Official page

Pay At least minimum wage, usually 40 hours a week

Deadline 2027 applications open late January or early February. Each park sets its own deadline. 2026 deadlines ran February 13 to June 16.

Who Ages 15 through 18 who are permanent residents of the US. A paid outdoor summer job, not an office internship. You commute daily, except at Yellowstone.

How hard **No numbers.** Each site hires on its own, so odds depend on the site near you.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

6 Project SEED

Official page

Pay $4,000 stipend

Deadline Applications February to April 2027. Exact dates not posted. 2026 closed April 6.

Who Preferably current sophomores, juniors or seniors with at least one chemistry class. Family income at or below 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, with proof. You need a host site you can commute to. Find a Location shows summer 2023 sites, so confirm yours is running.

How hard **Competitive.** About 371 students from 1,685 applicants in 2024, about 1 in 5.

NASA

7 OSTEM Internships (seniors who will be 18)

Official page

Pay Stipend based on academic level and session length. Amount not listed.

Deadline March 1, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET.

Who Current seniors, for the summer right after graduation. 18 by the June 7, 2027 start, 3.0 GPA, US citizens only. You arrange your own housing. If you graduate after June 7, ask NASA first. Current juniors cannot apply.

How hard **No numbers for high schoolers.** These internships are built for college-level students.

US ARMY

8 AEOP High School Internships

Official page

Pay A stipend for every intern. Set by site and length.

Deadline Always open, but deadlines vary by listing.

Who Current high schoolers. Each posting adds its own rules, including any age minimum. US citizens or permanent residents. You must be able to commute, since housing is not provided.

How hard **Competitive.** The program calls its internships highly competitive.

US SENATE

9 Senate Page Program, summer sessions

Official page

Pay Paid on a $38,547 yearly salary basis, so you earn a share for your weeks. School-year housing costs $1,380 a month from pay. Ask about summer.

Deadline Set by each senator's office. Sessions in June and July 2027, exact dates not posted.

Who Rising juniors and seniors who are 16 or 17 on the appointment date, with a 3.0 GPA. A senator must sponsor you, and not all senators do. US citizens or permanent residents with a Social Security number.

How hard **Long shot.** 30 page positions for 100 senators. Extra commuter pages may be added in summer. Count not listed.

Part 2: Better odds, city summer jobs

NEW YORK CITY

10 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Official page

Pay 2026: $17 an hour, 25 hours a week for 6 weeks at ages 16 to 24

Deadline 2027 not posted. 2026 deadline was March 13.

Who NYC youth ages 14 to 24. Ages 14 and 15 earned up to $700 on paid projects. Free to apply.

How hard **Better odds.** Random lottery, with 100,000 young people served in 2025.

CHICAGO

11 Chicago Youth Works (was One Summer Chicago)

Official page

Pay Paid, but the rate depends on the program and is not listed. Library spots for younger teens are volunteer.

Deadline 2027 dates not posted, though the site says the application is open. Applications ran in spring 2026.

Who Chicago residents ages 14 to 24. Most summer jobs are for ages 16 and up.

How hard **Better odds.** The site lists about 31,100 opportunities and 53,900 applicants last year.

WASHINGTON, DC

12 Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program

Official page

Pay 2026: $9 an hour at ages 16 to 21, $6.25 at ages 14 and 15

Deadline 2027 not posted. The 2026 application has closed.

Who DC residents ages 14 to 24. The pay is low for this list.

How hard **Better odds.** In 2024, employers offered 26,382 slots for 13,960 eligible youth. Slots are employer maximums.

DETROIT

13 Grow Detroit's Young Talent

Official page

Pay $12.50 to $15 an hour, or a $1,500 to $2,000 stipend. Up to 120 hours.

Deadline 2027 not posted. 2026 window was March 13 to May 15.

Who Detroit residents ages 14 to 24, at any household income.

How hard **Better odds.** Random lottery, but thousands apply and not everyone is picked.

PHILADELPHIA

14 Career Connected Learning PHL (formerly WorkReady)

Official page

Pay $1,300 to $1,500 depending on the program, school year and summer combined

Deadline 2027 not posted. Summer applications open between March and April each year. 2026 window was March 19 to April 30.

Who Philadelphia residents ages 12 to 24, with priority for students in school.

How hard **Better odds.** The city planned 8,000 summer placements in 2024. Spots are matched by fit.

BALTIMORE

15 YouthWorks

Official page

Pay 2026: $15 an hour

Deadline January 4 to February 27, 2027.

Who Baltimore City residents. The 2026 age range was 14 to 21. Program runs June 28 to July 30, 2027.

How hard **No numbers.** No job is guaranteed, and applying early does not guarantee a spot.

BOSTON

16 futureBOS Youth Jobs (SuccessLink)

Official page

Pay SuccessLink jobs: $15 an hour at ages 14 to 18, up to 25 hours a week in summer, per an archived city page. Other jobs may differ.

Deadline 2027 not posted. No single deadline. For 2026, the city said to check back in March. Its site was down on November 4.

Who Boston youth ages 14 and up who are allowed to work. Check each listing for its rules.

How hard **No numbers.** Employers hire as applications arrive, so apply early and to at least three jobs.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

17 Youth@Work

Official page

Pay $18.47 an hour for at least 140 hours, per the county in July 2026

Deadline No fixed deadline posted. Fill out the county interest form, and a job center will contact you.

Who LA County residents ages 14 to 24 in an eligible group, such as low-income households, foster youth or young people with disabilities.

How hard **No numbers.** The county aimed to place at least 500 youth in summer 2026 roles. You must fit an eligible group.

PHOENIX

18 Phoenix Youth R.I.S.E.

Official page

Pay 2026: $15.15 an hour for 80 hours over 4 weeks

Deadline 2027 not posted.

Who Phoenix residents ages 16 to 24.

How hard **No numbers.** First come, first served, so watch for the opening.

SEATTLE

19 Seattle Youth Employment Program

Official page

Pay 2026: at least $21.30 an hour, the highest hourly rate on this list

Deadline 2027 internship dates not posted. 2026 window was March 18 to May 5. The separate Learn & Earn: Pathways program closes December 16, 2026.

Who Ages 16 to 24 who live in Seattle or attend Seattle public schools, with household income at or below 80% of the area median.

How hard **Lottery for 250 spots.** No applicant numbers published.

20 Not in one of these cities?

Many cities and counties run a program like these. Here is how to look for yours.

- Search your city or county name plus "summer youth employment".
- Use the American Job Center Finder, then call your nearest center and ask about paid summer programs for high schoolers.
- Ask your school counselor which local employers hired students last summer.

> Federal youth job funds focus on young people facing barriers to work, and at least 75% go to those out of school. Job centers can still point you to local programs.

Find a center www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/AmericanJobCenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx

Part 3: Only if you live nearby

NEW YORK CITY AREA

21 Memorial Sloan Kettering Summer Student Program

Official page

Pay $1,200 stipend, June 29 to August 20, 2027

Deadline February 5, 2027, 8 a.m. EST. Opens December 1, 2026.

Who Current juniors, 16 by June 2027, with a 3.5 GPA in science, living in NY, NJ or CT within 25 miles of MSK's Upper East Side campus. Must be legally authorized to work in the US.

How hard **Long shot.** 20 spots, 1,000+ applications, 2% acceptance rate.

SAN FRANCISCO

22 UCSF High School Intern Program

Official page

Pay $4,500 for completing 8 weeks at 35 hours a week

Deadline February 15, 2027. Opens January 15.

Who Current juniors at San Francisco public or charter schools. No exceptions.

How hard **Competitive.** 25 spots and about 50 interviews. UCSF says acceptance does not depend on grades.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

23 Salk Institute High School Summer Scholars

Official page

Pay Paid, 8 weeks. Amount not listed.

Deadline February 15, 2027. Opens December 1, 2026.

Who San Diego County residents at county high schools, 16 by June 14, 2027, with a 2.75 GPA and one biology class. Salk's 2027 flyer also lists a year of chemistry, so confirm.

How hard **Long shot.** 12 students from 250 applicants in 2022, about 1 in 20.

ILLINOIS

24 Fermilab PRISM

Official page

Pay $500 a week for 4 weeks, July 12 to August 6, 2027

Deadline March 1, 2027. Opens January 12.

Who Illinois students who are rising seniors or 2027 graduates. US citizens only. One letter from a STEM teacher or club advisor. Fermilab calls this a summer school. Proof of medical insurance required.

How hard **No numbers.** No course prerequisites.

WASHINGTON, DC AREA

25 Smithsonian Natural History Summer Internship

Official page

Pay Paid. We could not confirm the current amount, so check the listing.

Deadline 2027 details due early December. 2026 deadline was March 20.

Who Grades 9 to 12, ages 15 to 18, within commuting distance in DC, Maryland or Virginia. Check the listing for citizenship rules.

How hard **No numbers.** Includes non-science museum work.

NEW YORK CITY

26 The Met Summer High School Internship

Official page

Pay 2026: $1,100 stipend for 40 hours

Deadline 2027 not posted. 2026 deadline was March 13.

Who Grade 10 or 11. The summer page says you must live and attend school in NY, NJ or CT, but a Met FAQ says New York City, so email them to confirm.

How hard **No official numbers.** Plan on heavy competition.

SEATTLE AREA

27 Fred Hutch Summer High School Internship

Official page

Pay A financial award for finishing. Details go to applicants who interview.

Deadline 2027 information due in November. 2026 deadline was March 13.

Who Rising seniors, 16 by the start, living in Greater Seattle or nearby.

How hard **Competitive.** Fred Hutch calls it highly competitive. No numbers published. Designed for students without much research experience.

LOS ANGELES

28 Teen Gallery Guides at the Getty

Official page

Pay A stipend for finishing the program. Amount not listed.

Deadline Usually opens early February. No 2027 date posted.

Who Sophomores and juniors at LA County high schools, 16 by the start, living within 25 miles of the Getty Center.

How hard **No numbers.**

MULTIPLE CITIES

29 DPR Construction Build Up High School Internship

Official page

Pay Paid hourly with transportation stipends. Rate not listed.

Deadline 2027 details due early 2027.

Who Rising juniors, rising seniors or May 2027 graduates who can commute to an active DPR jobsite. Family income below 80% of the area median.

How hard **No numbers.** A good pick if you like building things more than labs.

Before you apply

30 Get these ready this week

Most of these programs ask for the same few things.

- Ask one teacher or coach for a recommendation now, before everyone else does.
- Request an unofficial transcript from your school.
- Make a one-page resume. School projects, clubs and part-time work all count.
- If you are under 18, check whether you need a work permit. Some programs ask for one.

Free application checklist

joinskillbridge.com/resources/first-internship-application-kit.pdf — Check your application before you send it.

Programs we cut, and why

31 These show up on a lot of lists

We checked them too. Here is why they are not above.

- Lockheed Martin Space High School Internship: open through January 3, 2027, but its program page lists no pay. If you live near a site, ask first.
- Bank of America Student Leaders: the 2027 program requires being a rising college sophomore.
- Jackson Laboratory Summer Student Program: it no longer accepts high school seniors.
- Stanford SIMR: pay is limited and needs-based, and students from outside the Bay Area must show they have housing.
- Boeing: it says it does not offer internships for high school students.
- Google, Apple, Goldman Sachs, Citi and Wells Fargo: we found no public US internship for high schoolers.

Last verified November 5, 2026. Programs change their rules and dates, so confirm on the official page before you apply. The odds labels are our own judgment from the newest public numbers we could find.