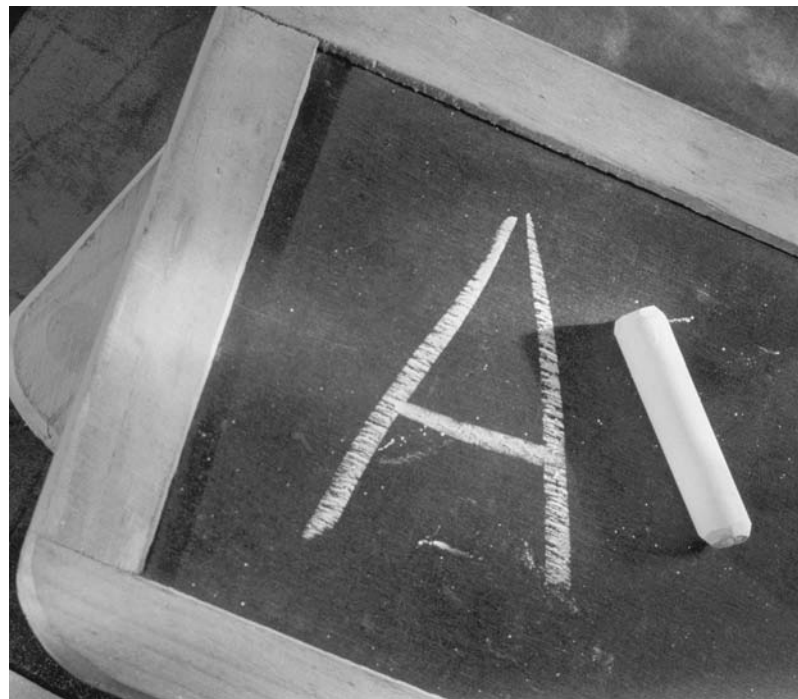




# health insurance

Many families cannot afford health insurance coverage offered through their jobs, yet they earn too much to receive other assistance. The result is that many children are not getting the preventive health-care that they need, meaning more sick days from school and more missed work days by parents and caregivers.

**ALL Kids** is a low-cost comprehensive health insurance program for children under age 19. Upon enrollment, it provides quality medical care including preventive, dental and eye care. It is provided through the Alabama Department of Public Health. For more information or to apply for insurance, please contact Tina Dooley at 256.582.3174. In Dekalb County, contact Cyndy Henderson at 256.231.8827. You may also see your coordinator or counselor, or visit their web site at [www.adph.org/allkids/](http://www.adph.org/allkids/).



**LAUNCH Youth Services** is funded under the Workforce Investment Act through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.



**Launch Youth Services**  
 P.O. Box 408  
 Huntsville, AL 35801



# The Launch Pad

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**Launch Youth Services**  
 Youth Enrichment • Leadership Skills  
 Education • Career Assessment & Counseling

## Linemen “launch” into lucrative careers

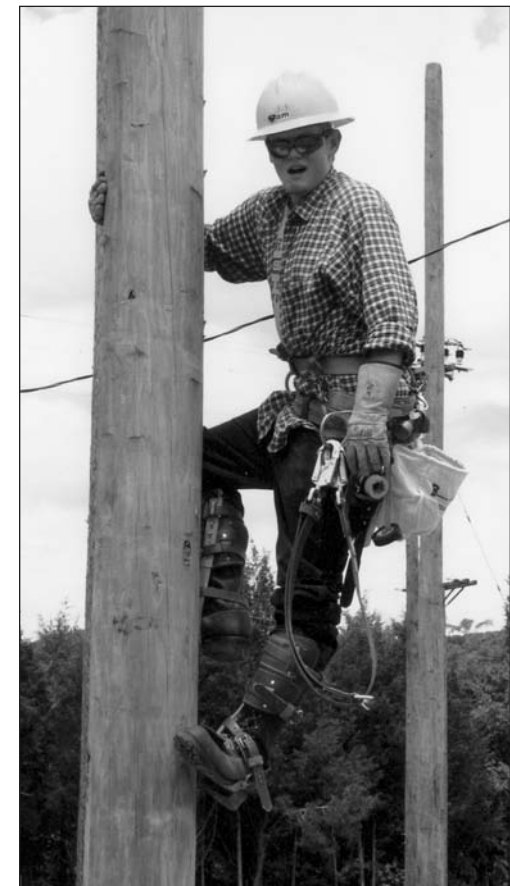
**W**ant a challenge, great pay, and a rewarding career? Line work will give you the freedom to work outdoors; it will guarantee a physical and mental reward; and is one of the highest paying trades that exists. With the current demand for line workers at an all time high, there is no better time than now!

The **Southeast Lineman Training Center** facility, located in Trenton, Georgia, is just 30 minutes east of Scottsboro, Alabama. The program is 15 weeks long and is very demanding. However the graduates say it was well worth the time and the work. The training prepares you to work for power line construction and utility companies as apprentice

lineworkers. Students are taught the necessary skills needed to be safe and extremely productive on utility and/or construction company line crews. SLTC trains approximately 120 students per year.

The Electrical Lineworker Program allows for mastery in such areas as climbing wooden poles, installing crossarms and hardware, installing conductors and pole-line equipment, installing underground systems, and the proper usage of the tools of the trade in simulated conditions. Consisting of both classroom and field environments, the program is divided into three educational areas: 1) academic training (six core academic courses); 2) field training (hands-on training); and 3) certifications. The program is offered three times per year, and spans a period of four months. Classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The career opportunities for linemen are substantial, primarily due to the retirement of the current workforce as well as maintenance and development of systems all over the country. Upon completion of the program, faculty and staff assist graduates with employment opportunities; however most graduates receive job offers before they even graduate from the program! Although local employment is not a guarantee, the opportunity to relocate or travel to assist in



Hanging around: Sam Rice (August 2005 graduate – Marshall County) takes a breather after a climbing exercise in the pre-graduation competition. Sam now has a lucrative career with Texas-New Mexico Power in Texas.

areas affected by storms, hurricanes, and other power problems have been some of the exciting aspects of this career.

This is one of the most lucrative programs available to anyone seeking training for a successful career. Applicants must be 18, have a GED or

– continued on page 2

### Launch Staff

#### Jackson County

Sadie Bias, coordinator  
 Leslie Shelor, counselor

#### Madison County

James McDonald, coordinator  
 Donnie Towle, counselor

#### Marshall County

Sandra Davis, coordinator  
 Pam Lomax, counselor

Debra Dunbar, director  
 Bill Hey, counseling supervisor

## Think you must have a 4-year college degree to get a job? Think again!

According to America's Career Infonet (www.acinet.org), many jobs which are expected to grow the fastest between now and 2012 in Alabama may require only work experience or on-the-job training. Keep these in mind during your job search! If these jobs don't interest you, remember that they could be a part-time job while you complete education in your desired field.

- Medical Assistants
- Occupational therapist aides
- Home Health aides
- Personal & home care aides
- Hazardous materials removal workers
- Dental assistants
- Physical therapist aides
- Residential advisors
- Social & human service assistants
- Veterinary assistants & laboratory animal caretakers
- Heating, air conditioning & refrigeration mechanics
- Security guards
- Choreographers
- Counter & rental clerks
- Manufactured building & mobile home installers
- Pharmacy technicians
- Receptionists & information clerks
- Amusement & recreation attendants
- Merchandise displayers & window trimmers
- Painters
- Recreational vehicle service technicians
- Self-enrichment education teachers
- Telecommunications line installers & repairers
- Bill & account collectors
- Cement masons & concrete finishers

## Everyone should have a "WHY"

*I was recently named Launch Client of the Year for Madison County. I was a single mom that worked and knows the importance of furthering my education. One of my goals was to complete my GED, but it was easier said than done. I have taken the GED exam on 5 occasions and was truly disappointed each time that I didn't pass the exam. My dreams and goals were mine, but other people in my life called me a failure, and they said that I would have a lot of kids and would not amount to anything. Thanks to the staff of the Launch Program and their belief in my dreams, I did not give up when the going got tough. I realize that it would have been so easy to do just that, but my "WHY" was my motivation for not giving up. I attained my GED in August 2005 and will be pursuing Business Management and Cosmetology as career goals. Since earning my diploma, my younger sister has been inspired to get back in class to complete her GED. My son is my "WHY" for not giving up, and I have one question for everyone – what is your "WHY" or do you have one?*

*Yours truly,  
Tawanda Jones*

*P.S. I got married in May 2005.*

Continued from front –

High School diploma, and be willing to work hard. Housing and financial aid may be available to those who qualify. Please contact your LAUNCH coordinator or Southeast Lineman

Training Center for additional information at 1-866-461-8026.

For information please visit them at [www.lineworker.com](http://www.lineworker.com). They'll arrange for you to come and visit!



Group effort: Stephan English (April 2005 graduate – Jackson County) is congratulated by Mrs. Snow (GED teacher, left) and Sadie Bias (LAUNCH coordinator, right) during the pre-graduation competition. Stephan is working with Pike Electric in Northeast Alabama, but is currently on assignment in Florida.

## 50 Ways to Leave Your Employer (or just stay unemployed)!

New York University lists the following reasons most frequently given by employers for turning down job applicants. This information is based on reports from 153 companies. If you are out to get a job, take inventory of yourself in relation to these reasons. If you are still in school, it will give you time to work on eliminating any of the following traits that may hinder you in your job search. How would you rate yourself on each trait?

1. Poor personal appearance
2. Overbearing, overaggressive, "know-it-all", conceited
3. Inability to express themselves clearly, poor voice, pronunciation, grammar
4. Lack of planning for career, no goals
5. Lack of interest and enthusiasm, indifferent, apathetic
6. Low moral standards
7. Failure to participate in work activities
8. Cynical
9. Poor scholastic record – barely got by
10. Unwilling to start at the bottom – expects too much too soon
11. Makes excuses, evasive, hedges on unfavorable factors in work record
12. Lack of tact
13. Lack of maturity
14. Lack of courtesy, ill mannered
15. Condemnation of past employers
16. Lack of social understanding
17. Marked dislike for schoolwork, teachers
18. Fails to make eye contact with interviewer
19. Handles personal finances poorly; asks for advances; has wages garnished
20. Failure to express appreciation for the interviewer's time
21. Voices unhappiness with married life
22. Voices friction with parents
23. Failure to ask questions about the potential job
24. Answers cell phone during interview
25. Wears cap during interview
26. Sloppy application, incomplete
27. Too chatty about personal affairs; gossipy; talks about other employees
28. Wants only short-term employment or limited hours, specific days; inflexible
29. Little or no sense of humor
30. Lack of knowledge of field of specialization or training
31. Parents make decision for them
32. No interest in company or in industry
33. Emphasis on who they know
34. Unwillingness to relocate or travel for job
35. Overemphasizes money, only interested in the best financial offer
36. Lack of confidence and poise, nervous, fidgety
37. Lazy
38. Intolerant, strong prejudices
39. Narrow interests
40. Limp, fishy handshake
41. No interest in community or related activities
42. Inability to take constructive criticism
43. Doesn't appreciate the value of experience; thinks he can start at the top
44. Arrives late to interview without calling ahead or without valid reason
45. Never heard of the company with whom he is applying
46. Radical ideas
47. Indecision
48. Brings friends, parents, or girl/boy friend to interview
49. Slouches in chair
50. Chews gum or asks to smoke

## Launch Calendar

**Outdoor ROPES** (October 13) – Don't be left out! Stretch your legs, enjoy great camaraderie in our beautiful fall weather, and pick up a few practical life skills. Check with your coordinators for transportation details!

### Leadership Workshops

Led by your LAUNCH coordinators and counselors and conveniently located in your county! Career panels, college panels, motivational speakers, and more practical skills for the workforce and life in the real world! Check with your coordinator for details.

Huntsville – November 4  
Albertville – November 15  
Scottsboro – November 18

**Group Sessions** – Check your local office for some new workshops, like "The Art of Worrying", "Understanding Anger", and "Problem Solving Made Easy."

**Check with your counselor for details.**

## Congratulations, Graduates

July-September 2005

### GED Graduates

Brianna Abernathy  
Demarkus Baldwin  
Eric Chandler  
Brody Echols  
Kayla Gore  
Amanda Hicks  
Tawanda Jones  
Melissa Lewis  
Derik Love  
Danielle Scruggs  
Jonathan Spencer

Sam Rice – Lineman School

**HEY EVERYONE!  
CLICK HERE!!**

The new **Launch** web site is up and running! Lots of info on **Launch** activities, education & career info links, community resource information – even a "Members' Corner" where you can submit YOUR ideas, thoughts, art, and poetry! Check it out – you never know what you'll find!

[www.launchprogram.org](http://www.launchprogram.org)