



# APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

2026 ENTRY GUIDE  
FOR APPRENTICES  
AND EMPLOYERS



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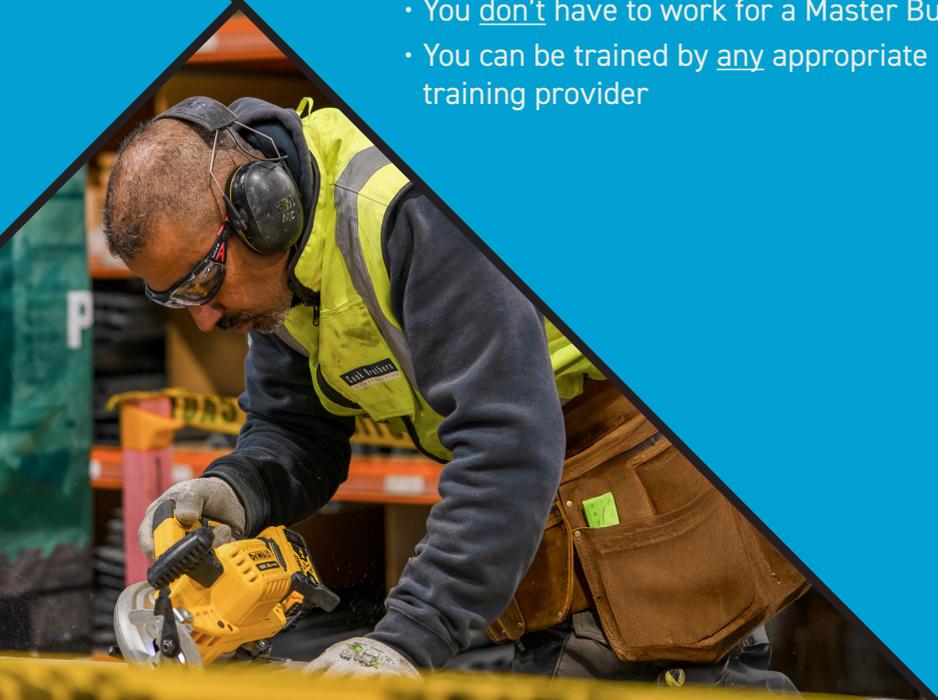
# WELCOME

## WE WANT YOU!

As an apprentice, you are one of the sector's future leaders. This competition will test your project management, business, and presentation skills as well as your practical skills.

### Open to all Apprentices

- Open to carpentry apprentices of all ages
- You don't have to work for a Master Builder
- You can be trained by any appropriate training provider



# WHY ENTER



Build your **skills** to fast-track your career



Be recognised for being a great apprentice and a future leader



Get a **free membership** to Master Builders for a year – loaded with free training and social events



Meet industry leaders and like minded apprentices



Win amazing prizes!  
Cash, tools, event tickets and more...



## PRIZES – REGIONAL WINNERS



**\$2,000** CARTERS  
Account Credit



The opportunity to **attend a legendary 16 day Leadership Outward Bound course** in the Marlborough Sounds



A ticket to **attend the National House of the Year** gala event including travel and accommodation paid



**Represent your region as one of New Zealand's top building apprentices** at the National Finals

## PRIZES – NATIONAL WINNER



**\$5,000 Career Advancement Grant** from CARTERS



Use of a **brand new ute** for one year, courtesy of principal partner CARTERS

**Want some motivation to enter the competition?**

All completed entries will get an awesome CARTERS Gift Pack.



# HEAR FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL WINNERS

"I never thought I'd win. Working primarily on retirement village homes, I assumed that might be a disadvantage compared to those focused on high-spec builds. But in the end, my in-depth knowledge of these projects really shone through. I tend to be pretty hard on myself, so this recognition feels particularly rewarding."  
Taharangi Mcwatters, 2023 Central North Island & East Coast/ Hawke's Bay Regional Winner

"When I was young, I loved building stuff with my older brothers. Being a builder was something I knew was right for me. It was awesome to be recognised for my hard work. The competition was lots of fun – I enjoyed challenging myself and doing work. The competition was out of my comfort zone. It was great to meet the other apprentices, they are all awesome people."  
Isaac Posthuma, second place at the Master Builders Carters 2023 Apprentice of the Year, Northern Regional Winner



# THE PROCESS

## OVERVIEW



## WRITTEN APPLICATION

The entry form for Apprenticeship of the Year includes the following sections:

- Personal information
- Employer information
- Apprenticeship information
- 'Why You?'
- Project details
- Employer reference
- Education and training advisors reference
- Declaration

## PROJECT SUBMISSION

Your project submission is a great way to reflect on an amazing project that you've been working on and to test the skills that you've been learning during your apprenticeship.

To help set you up for success, check out the website for examples from previous winning entries.



Check out our Tips for Submissions at: [www.apprenticeshipoftheyear.co.nz/getprepared](http://www.apprenticeshipoftheyear.co.nz/getprepared)

# DETAILS



## ENTRY CRITERIA



You must have completed at least 18 months of your New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry L4 by the date of entries closing.



You must still be an apprentice on the date when entries close.



You can enter the competition a maximum of two times, provided you have not been a national finalist – in which case you may not enter again.



You do not need to be working for a Master Builder to enter. The competition is open to any carpentry apprentice, regardless of employer or training provider.

## KEY DATES

**Entries Open**  
5 March 2026

**Entries Close**  
12 April 2026

**Regional Practicals**  
13 June 2026

**Regional Awards**  
August-September 2026

**National Competition and Awards**  
7 – 9 October 2026  
The Cloud, Auckland



You can view the full entry terms and conditions on our website [www.apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz/terms-conditions](http://www.apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz/terms-conditions)

# REGIONAL INFO

## DETERMINING REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

To ensure a fair, balanced, and well-run Apprentice of the Year competition, the following process will be used to determine which region each apprentice represents:

### 1 Entry by local region

Apprentices will initially enter the competition and indicate the region where they are currently based. They will work directly with their local Master Builders branch to prepare and submit their entry. This ensures each apprentice is supported by the branch that best understands their location and context.

### 2 Review after entries close

Once entries have officially closed and final entry numbers are confirmed across all regions, Master Builders will review the distribution of apprentices.

### 3 Possible reallocation to a neighbouring region

To maintain a balanced and competitive event across the country, some apprentices may be reassigned to a neighbouring region.

Reallocation will only occur when necessary and will be based solely on **geographical proximity**, ensuring the apprentice remains reasonably local to the region they are moved to.

Any travel costs incurred by apprentices as a result of the move, will be reimbursed by Master Builders.

### 4 Change of main point of contact

If an apprentice is reassigned to a different region, their primary point of contact will also change to reflect the region they will now compete in. This ensures consistent communication and alignment with the team organising the competition in that region.

### 5 Purpose of reallocation

Any movement of apprentices is undertaken for the purpose of:

- Creating an **even spread of competitors** across all regional competitions
- Ensuring **as many regions as possible** are able to participate fully in the National Event
- Promoting fairness by avoiding significant imbalances in competition numbers between regions

### 6 Transparency and communication

If an apprentice needs to be reassigned, they will be informed promptly, along with their employer and the relevant branches. The decision-making process will be clearly explained to maintain transparency and confidence in the fairness of the competition. This may mean that your main point of contact for the competition may change – see point 4 above.

# SHOWCASE YOURSELF

## QUALITY MARKS

This year there are Apprentice of the Year Quality Marks for winners of the Regional and National events so both you and your employer can promote your success. They are a tangible demonstration of your skills and knowledge, and the quality of your work.

### National - Apprentice



### Regional - Apprentice



### National - Employer



### Regional - Employer



### National Finalist - Apprentice & Employer



### Regional Finalist - Apprentice & Employer



# EMPLOYER INFO

Apprentice of the Year also celebrates you, the employer, for investing in apprentices and giving back to the industry. It showcases what a great employer looks like and the benefits to your business of mentoring the sector's talent.

## ENCOURAGE YOUR APPRENTICE TO ENTER

- It builds skills to fast-track their career
- It shows you see potential in them and view them as a future leader
- It shows you believe in them, their skills and their abilities
- It helps them to feel valued as a good apprentice
- It introduces them to industry leaders and likeminded apprentices
- They get a free membership to Master Builders for a year – loaded with free training and social events
- They can win amazing prizes!

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Recognition as a great employer for helping your apprentice realise and reach their potential
- Meeting and networking with industry leaders
- Acknowledgment for the role you are playing in the future of the industry
- Attract new talent by showing that you value your staff and the future of the industry
- Gain exposure for your business for having a top apprentice
- Be in the running for an Employer's Award for mentoring a winning apprentice

## EMPLOYER QUALITY MARKS

The Quality Marks aren't just for the Apprentices, there are ones for you too! They demonstrate the quality and skills of your team and your commitment to our industry and its future.





# WHAT'S NEXT

## PREPARE YOUR ENTRY!



Go to [www.apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz](http://www.apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz) and complete your entry by the date entries close in 12 April 2026.

And that's it, you can kick back and relax until the practical challenge in June.



## CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

[apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz](http://apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz) | 0800 762 328 | [Aoy@masterbuilder.org.nz](mailto:Aoy@masterbuilder.org.nz)