

How Teen Job Hunters Can Create a Job Referral Network to Get Retail Summer Jobs

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Beating Adults for Retail Jobs and Help Your Teen Job-Hunting Friends Too

From [RecruiterGuy Bill Humbert](#), About.com Guide

How Teens Can Beat Adults With More Job-Hunting Resources to Part-time Summer Retail Jobs

It doesn't seem fair that teens are having to compete with adults for part-time summer retail jobs. Not only do adults have more work experience, they also seemingly have more freedom, mobility, and resources to put into their job-hunting efforts.

Teen job-hunters, however, may have one advantage that adult job-hunters overlook - connections with other teens who are working already. Simply by asking their working retail friends, "How did you get your job?" and "Can you put a good word in for me with your boss?" teens can create a summer job referral network, even if they don't know what a referral network is.

"Teens network naturally," says [RecruiterGuy Bill Humbert](#), "they just don't call it networking." After 30 years of professional job recruiting experience, Humbert's best advice for today's teens comes from his own teenage job-hunting years.



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"When I was a teen, I had a friend, Teddy, who had a Washington Post paper route," Humbert recalls. "I asked Teddy how to get a paper route. He introduced me to the route manager who brought me on board. Later, the route manager asked me if I had any friends who wanted a paper route and I introduced him to Tom, my best friend. Tom began the next month."

Humbert and his friends created a referral network without even knowing it. Teens in today's tight job market can also create a referral network to help their friends find retail summer jobs this summer in the same way Humbert and his friends did.

Teen Job Hunting Tip - Network Only With the Best Workers

The key to a good teen referral network, however, is making sure the friends you hook up with are responsible, hard-working, and desirable employees. If one teen employee does a good job, then managers will assume that their friends will be good employees too. Conversely, bosses are not eager to take recommendations from teen employees who are tardy, lazy slackers.

"How teens find jobs is an indicator of success in the workplace years later," Humbert says. Teens who successfully beat out adults for retail summer jobs in a tight job market will be seen as resourceful and persistent job candidates in later years.

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