



WHAT ARE YOU UP FOR?

MY LIFE AS



A LEADMAN CARPENTER: KEITH MCCRAY

Keith McCray is enjoying life. He has a career he likes. He has family and friends happily working in a related field. And he has time and money to travel to places he never thought he'd see. Six years after graduating from high school, Keith is a first-line crew leader—a leadman—at MAREK, on a career path that could take him to management in the construction industry. Construction is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the Houston regional economy. More than 43,000 new construction positions will be created across Houston in the next seven years—and Houston can't be built from behind a desk.

"Someone in high school who wants to get into the industry, I would say just do it," Keith advised. "Construction is an open industry, especially in Houston, and it's very rewarding."

REQUIREMENTS:

Construction certifications such as NCCER, on-the-job craft training, classroom training

SALARY:

\$35,360 to \$47,700, plus overtime, for a leadman I to II

CAREER PATH:

Warehouse stockroom worker, construction craft helper/trainee, construction craft mechanic, certified journeyman, leadman

ADVANCEMENT:

Leadman II, foreman I, foreman II, foreman III, foreman IV, superintendent, production manager, division manager

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Trade school, after graduating from high school, to learn a craft. *"Coming in with a craft already under your belt, you can start off with a higher wage, maybe a higher position, and more confidence from the bosses because you have a certification already," Keith said.* Good communication skills, strong craftsmanship, an interest in coaching others, high concern with safety, and a knack for solving problems.

KEY CAREER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Work closely with project supervision to direct the work activities of one or more craft workers in one or more areas of a job, in a safe and productive manner. Construct and maintain office buildings, hospitals, hotels, schools, stadiums, museums, and other structures. Meet with customers and general contractors, read and understand construction drawings, maintain quality control, track labor and production, train employees, manage employee performance, and utilize technology.