

# “The Hippo Experience”



## Meet: Madelyn, South Umpqua High School Class of 2020

“Freshman year I was a very introverted person and very shy, I wouldn’t speak to anyone unless I knew them. However, I was also the kind that was hard-working and wanted to go out to see what opportunity were out there. I did not really want to get stuck with the standard routine of going to school and then heading back home. The

first time I heard about Recruit HIPPO was when I was in Mrs. Fye’s college recruitment class and she talkED about different alternatives other than college. That is when I came across Renee, the Youth Talent Advisor, who offered internship and job placement opportunities with the local businesses in the area. I agreed to meet with her as this program sparked my interest.



After talking with Renee, I was super comfortable opening up to her. We spoke about certain careers that I would be interested in such as becoming a diesel mechanic or a heavy equipment operator - pretty much all the male-dominated professions. I felt like the trade jobs are slowly losing their foothold with young people because no one really wants to work in these types of jobs. Therefore, I wanted to take advantage of these open opportunities! And it was something that I always wanted to do. So, Renee found me an internship at Tractor Supply. It was an agriculture-related job which was an environment where I could gain more knowledge. Previous summers I would be racking hay, bailing hay and it seemed like a great fit because it was all the things that I was interested in. Since age 16, I have worked in Burger King and A&W restaurants, which were more fast-paced, however; Tractor Supply was more laid back, and it was more rewarding because I was familiar with the different tools that were being sold. It allowed me to use my knowledge to help customers out. I was able to give customers advise and tips on certain projects, like gardening or keeping the pigs from escaping. I learned to catch on quickly and adapt to the dynamics of a slower paced job.

Renee continued to assist me throughout the whole process by helping me build a professional resume. She helped me realize that I had more skills than I thought I did. Renee has always been supportive of my future goals after graduating from High School.

After graduating, Renee referred me to Gaylene who is a Career Consultant with South Coast Business. She is currently helping me with obtaining employment at Roseburg Forest Products. I believe that I have a fighting spirit and determination to succeed in life. I am hopeful for the future, to become financially stable. I been working minimum wage jobs since the age of 16, it has been tough to save money and become independent. Living paycheck to paycheck has been tough and I really want to be in a position where I can have a decent house and have a nice vehicle. I just want to be happy with being able to live a comfortable life, I don't



have to be the richest person out there. I would like to be able to give back to others who truly need the help.



My family recently moved to Montana, so they are quite a ways away now. I am trying my best to make it here, I want to continue to develop my professional skills here in Oregon and one day be confident to say that if I could make it here, I can make it anywhere.

