

## Characteristics of a Good Apprentice (With Room for Growth):

- **Eagerness to Learn:** Apprentices should demonstrate a strong desire to develop new skills and knowledge, particularly in project management.
- **Open-Mindedness:** While they may start with limited experience in project management or technical areas, apprentices should be open to learning and applying new skills in practical situations.
- Interest in the Electrical Field: Even if they have not yet mastered technical skills like NEC navigation or construction drawing interpretation, apprentices should possess a foundational interest in the electrical field.
- **Commitment to Safety:** Apprentices should have an initial appreciation for safety, which will be emphasized and reinforced throughout the program.
- **Problem-Solving Potential:** A readiness to tackle challenges is essential. While formal problem-solving skills will be taught, the willingness to engage in problem-solving early on is key.
- **Communication Development:** Apprentices may not be expert communicators at the start, but they should show a willingness to improve their communication skills over time.
- **Team Player Attitude:** A collaborative mindset is essential, as project success depends on teamwork. Apprentices will have opportunities to reinforce this mindset through leadership training.
- **Basic Organizational Skills:** Although advanced scheduling and budgeting skills will be learned in the program, apprentices should demonstrate basic organizational abilities to handle initial tasks and time commitments.

**Apprentices** are not expected to start with advanced skills. Instead, they are selected for their potential to grow and develop as they progress through the apprenticeship program.

## Characteristics of a Good Manager/Mentor:

- **Extensive Practical Experience:** Mentors should have substantial hands-on experience in electrical contracting to provide apprentices with real-world insights and guidance.
- **Clear Communication:** They must be able to clearly explain tasks, expectations, and feedback, ensuring apprentices understand their responsibilities.
- **Problem-Solving Expertise:** Mentors should excel at identifying and addressing on-site issues, teaching apprentices how to troubleshoot and resolve challenges.
- Lead by Example: A mentor should model a strong work ethic, adherence to safety protocols, and professionalism, setting a standard for apprentices to follow.
- **Time Management and Efficiency:** Effective mentors help apprentices prioritize tasks, manage their time well, and ensure projects stay on schedule and within budget.
- **Patience and Teaching Ability:** While they are not formal educators, mentors should have the patience to guide apprentices through the learning process and help them adjust to the job's demands.
- Accountability and Support: Mentors should hold apprentices accountable for their work while providing the necessary support to help them succeed and progress through the program.



These traits emphasize on-the-job learning and support, focusing on practical guidance rather than formal training expertise, while fostering a productive apprenticeship experience.

## **QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE**

If you have questions about the program transition, please reach out to Anna Jochim at *Anna.Jochim@ELECTRI.org* or 202-449-9657.