



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 26 April 2023  
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## **Solar Holler Expands High School Apprenticeship Program to Include Seniors in Boyd County**

### **Careers in Solar Energy a Growing Opportunity for West Virginia Youth**

**Ashland, KY** - Solar Holler today announced, in partnership with Boyd County High School and the JAG KY program, a new apprenticeship opportunity for students interested in a career in solar energy. Participating students will shadow Solar Holler installation crews to learn industry basics through direct observation and hands-on experience.

Three Boyd County High School seniors have signed their offer letters and are ready to begin their journey with solar. The interns, David Lumpkins, Skyeler Tallent, and Michalee Gibson, will work alongside Solar Holler's experienced crews, observing and participating in every aspect of the solar energy installation process.

Upon completion of the program, the students will have an equal opportunity to be hired into full-time positions with Solar Holler.

"We're proud to be working with Boyd County High School on a program that creates opportunity for local kids. We want talented young people to have the ability to stay and thrive in their hometowns and believe this partnership will further that mission" said Solar Holler's founder and CEO, Dan Conant.

Solar Holler joins the program at a pivotal moment in clean energy workforce development. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act makes solar accessible to more nonprofits, businesses, and homeowners than ever before, particularly here in Appalachia. In 2021, there were 372 solar jobs in West Virginia, a number that's projected to nearly triple by 2030.

"We are proud to partner with Solar Holler and offer our students this opportunity through the JAG KY program," said Christy Ford, a representative of Boyd County High School. "This program will provide our students with hands-on experience and the skills they need to succeed in the solar energy industry, and overcome any barriers they may face along the way."



The program officially kicked off on April 26th, 2023, with a signing event at Boyd County High School where the students, alongside Solar Holler and Boyd County High School representatives, celebrated the beginning of this exciting new partnership.

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**Solar Holler** is bringing the next generation of energy production to our ancient mountains, and strengthening our communities with union employment. Solar Holler relentlessly pursues innovative approaches that bring solar within reach of all Appalachians, starting with low-interest financing options with no upfront cost. Solar Holler has helped dozens of businesses, nonprofits, and churches, and hundreds of homes go solar across West Virginia, southern Ohio, and eastern Kentucky.