

New Jersey Agricultural SkillBridge Program

Overview

The New Jersey Agricultural SkillBridge Program is a no-cost workforce development program that connects agricultural employers and active-duty military service members who are nearing the end of their service.

Participating employers help to prepare service members for post-military employment by providing training, work experience, and, in some cases, employment opportunities.

This program is a partnership between the SADC Next Generation Farmer Program and the United States Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge Program and is intended to create a pathway for outgoing service members who are interested in the New Jersey agricultural industry.



How it Works

- Agricultural employers complete an application to participate and, once approved, are listed on the DOD SkillBridge web portal where service members can reach out to them directly.
- Service members are limited to 40-hour work weeks and receive their normal compensation from the military during the SkillBridge period, which is typically 90-120 days.
- Employers are obligated to provide meaningful training and work experience, and are expected to offer employment to suitable participants at the conclusion of the program.

Program Support

SADC staff assist employers with application submissions, the development of skills-based training plans, position announcement postings, reporting, and compliance with program requirements. Staff also are available to assist service members with agricultural resource referral and networking opportunities.



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Who Should Participate

Agricultural employers - The ideal employers are those who are able to provide meaningful on-the-job training and work experience. They also should be able to offer employment opportunities to suitable participating service members upon completion of the program.

Active-duty service members - The ideal participants are those who are near the end of their military service and who are interested in pursuing an agricultural career.

Note: The Agricultural SkillBridge Program should not be viewed as a source of “free labor”; employer participants who do not adhere to program standards will be removed from the DOD SkillBridge web portal.

Application Window for Employers

Open enrollment for the NJ Agricultural SkillBridge Program begins October 1st each year. Employers should reach out to SADC Next Gen staff 30-60 days before open enrollment to start their applications and ensure timely submission and processing.

Contact us

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For more information

Visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/nextgen or <https://skillbridge.osd.mil/program-overview.htm> and contact Cassandra Pearsall and Jessica Brandeisky for more information about the New Jersey Agricultural SkillBridge Program.



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