



PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH

ENCOURAGE - SUPPORT - ACHIEVE

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.
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Early August, 2025



NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY AUGUST 4

Wow! Seven months have already come and gone in 2025! ***Our next meeting will be on the 1st Monday, August 4, 6:30 pm, at Hungry Howie's Pizza, 208 N Alexander St.*** The FY26 calendar will be discussed and we will prepare for the Golf Tournament (Oct 10), Football Skills Challenge (Oct 18), Trunk or Treat (Oct 31), Youth Excellence Awards (Nov 3), and Tree Lot (Nov 22 set-up, open Nov 24-Dec 12). Bring a new member candidate and treat them to a meal!

SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE

Twelve of our thirteen scholarships have been distributed. The last one is for Hope Storter who was elected to Florida FFA State President and is delaying her college studies until Fall 2026. We will get it to her then. We also received an update from our Plant City High School electrical students that received tools scholarships. Three have begun their careers in the electrical field and an update from one is coming soon. From that group, Miguel was featured in the recent article sent to area media for his 18th place finish at the National competition in Atlanta. See the Observer article on page 2 of this Chatter or the online version on page 9 at [this link](#).

GOLF TOURNAMENT – HAVE YOU CONTACTED YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

The 31st Annual Golf Classic is coming up on **Friday, October 10, 8:00 am, at Cleveland Heights Golf Course, Lakeland!** ***Please share the attached brochure with all your contacts so that we can get the word out – both about the event as well as the new venue.*** The info is also available on our web site: www.pcchampionsforyouth.org Mark your calendars so you can assist with the day-of-event on-site registration. Please reach out to **Golf Chair Jeb Hicks** at papajeb56@gmail.com with any questions and to offer some help!



OUR YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMS CONTINUE – SIGN UP TO HELP!

We do a lot for our area youth, but it can only be done with the help of our membership. Page 3 of this Chatter is a list of programs that we hope you can assist with. A fillable form is also attached to the email that brought you this Chatter. Even if you do not want to chair a specific event, please let us know your interest in helping with any events by listing your choices and returning the form to **Prez Jeff A** at arnoldjef@gmail.com We need your help!

LOOKING AHEAD... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✓ **Monday, August 4:** 1st Monday, General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Hungry Howie's Pizza
- ✓ **Monday, August 18:** 3rd Monday Grill Night, cook 6:15 pm, meeting 6:30 pm, PC Parks & Rec admin office patio. We will have a special guest as our feature speaker... more details coming soon!
- ✓ **Monday, September 1:** 1st Monday, no meeting – Labor Day holiday.

2025-2026 OFFICERS

Jeff Arnold, President
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stottlemeyer - Robert Olszewski
David Kinghorn - Jeb Hicks

PCHS GRADUATES WIN AT SKILLSUSA COMPETITIONS

PROGRAM PROMOTES STUDENTS GETTING GREAT JOBS IN TRADES.



(From left) Ivan Ibarra, Miguel Hernandez Garcia, and Jared Hill performed in SkillsUSA competitions.

DAVE HOOVER
STAFF WRITER

According to SkillsUSA Florida, employers in the state can't find applicants with the necessary skills to fill available jobs. To make matters worse, this skills gap is widening because students are trying other sorts of education and employment instead of going into skilled technical fields, also known as trades. To address this problem and help students find good hands-on careers, Plant City High School (PCHS) has a program to help students explore technical careers. PCHS offers courses in electrical construction wiring, automotive, and agricultural mechanics.

Fernando Guillen started the electrical program at PCHS in 2016. "I've been blessed since I started the program in 2016," the teacher said. "I've had students that are eager to learn the electrical field. They want to participate in SkillsUSA." Guillen teaches nearly 200 students a year in his classes.

"It really opens your eyes to opportunities that are out there," recent PCHS graduate Ivan Ibarra said. "It opens a different door, the trades types of jobs. It isn't an open book type of class, it is a hands-on class. So you really do get experience in real life, how it's going to be. The teacher is really great and he showed us the real-life look of it."

SkillsUSA Region 4 held competitions at its February conference. Vying against other students from Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando counties, Jared Hill took second in Electrical Construction Wiring. Ibarra got fourth. Gabriel Boxtha-Hernandez came in fifth. Hill and Ibarra qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference in Jacksonville in May. Ibarra upped his game and captured first at the event, while Hill got third.

Miguel Hernandez Garcia also represented PCHS at the state conference in the Industrial Motor Control competition. Garcia is the first PCHS student from the PCHS electrical program to compete in this event, and he won first place.

Ibarra and Garcia moved on to represent Hillsborough County Schools and the State of Florida at the National SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA, at the end of June. This event conducted 114 competitions in different technical skills and leadership. More than 6,500 students from across the United States contended in these events. Garcia placed 18th, and Ibarra placed 28th in their events.

"Nationals was a really huge event," Ibarra commented. "It was a great experience. You got to see a lot of new things,

and learn a lot of new things. It was special to be there competing and representing the State of Florida. Especially being from Plant City because it's not a big city. So, coming from a little town, it is amazing to compete at a national level. When you compete, they just throw stuff at you. You don't know what to expect. That skill set really does help you on the job site because you don't know what they are going to throw at you. The competition at SkillsUSA is all about perfection and safety. So, we really do focus on our craft and perfecting things and doing everything the right way."

"Ivan, Miguel, and Jared are all amazing," Guillen said. "They were all seniors. To see them go compete at the national competition was awesome. I like their dedication. I know all three men will have great careers wherever they choose to go. I am going to miss them. They have been great. Jared Hill has been with me since his freshman year. It is great seeing him grow and become passionate about the electrical field. I'm really proud of Jared. I'm really proud of Miguel. He was eager. He really wanted to compete in SkillsUSA."

All three young men are currently working in paid, four-year, electrical apprenticeships with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 915.

"Plant City Champions for Youth is proud to have assisted the Plant City team with their expenses for the Nationals in Atlanta, and it is great to see our local youth representing Plant City so well," Jack Holland, Plant City Champions for Youth board member, commented. Plant City Champions for Youth is a non-profit organization that is hyper-focused on helping the youth of the Plant City area. For more information about Champions for Youth, go to <http://www.pcchampionsforyouth.org>, or contact President Jeff Arnold at pcchampionsforyouth@outlook.com.



Guillen, Garcia, and Ibarra sit in the crowded stadium at the national competition.

Plant City Champions For Youth 2025-2026 Committee Assignment Worksheet

Club Member Name: _____

Rank your top three choices (1, 2, 3):

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | Champions Chatter (Bi-Monthly Newsletter) |
| _____ | Christmas Tree Fundraiser |
| _____ | Citizen of the Year |
| _____ | Club Photographer |
| _____ | Club Shirts/Hats |
| _____ | Digital Scrapbook Editor |
| _____ | Easter//Trunk or Treat/Memorial Day Events |
| _____ | Golf Tournament Fundraiser |
| _____ | Law Appreciation |
| _____ | Membership |
| _____ | Program/Fellowship |
| _____ | Publicity |
| _____ | Scholarships |
| _____ | Skills Challenge - Basketball |
| _____ | Skills Challenge - Football |
| _____ | Skills Challenge - Soccer |
| _____ | Social Media |
| _____ | Steak Night |
| _____ | Excellence Awards |



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE*: _____

FIRST NAME*: _____ LAST NAME*: _____

MAILING ADDRESS*: _____

MAILING CITY AND STATE*: _____ ZIP*: _____

BIRTH MONTH*: _____ BIRTH DATE*: _____

MOBILE*: (_____) _____ HOME*: (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS*: _____

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER NAME: _____

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER TELEPHONE - MOBILE: _____

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CURRENT / FORMER OCCUPATION: _____

PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS' MEMBER SPONSOR: _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT PC CHAMPIONS: _____

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)*:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YOUTH PROGRAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>	FUNDRAISING
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARKETING	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEB SITE / SOCIAL MEDIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLUB LEADERSHIP (PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY/TREASURER)		

* = REQUIRED

**PLEASE SAVE TO YOUR COMPUTER
AND EMAIL TO US AT:
PCCHAMPIONSFORYOUTH@OUTLOOK.COM**

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ APPROVAL OF APPLICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ⇒ \$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (JULY 1 TO JUNE 30)
- ⇒ VOTING RIGHTS AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN GOOD STANDING
- ⇒ MEETING ATTENDANCE IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED
- ⇒ FOCUS IS ON ASSISTANCE AT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS