

# Carpenters launch "Kids Build" training

Last Saturday the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters opened its training center in Hermantown, MN, to the community in the first of a series of free "Kids Build" weekend workshops.

The events are two-hour workshops held from 10 a.m. to noon one Saturday per month through May 2016 for children ages 5-12. At these workshops, kids have the opportunity to make wood projects, as well as build their skills and confidence.

The workshops are limited to 30 kids each month, who must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The first event Saturday was a full house.

Council staff and members were on hand to help children make their projects and learn new skills. Projects may

include the following: small bench, bookends, tool box, pinewood derby car, key holder/jewelry hanger, candy dispenser, planter or birdhouse.

Tools are supplied and there are no fees to participate. Children will be able to take their projects home to enjoy, along with a certificate of project completion.

Pounding nails to hold their tool boxes together was the hard part for many of the kids but at the many work stations in the training center you saw how proud they were of their work as they started painting them.

"This is cool," said Caleb Anderson, barely taking time to look from painting.

Steve Risacher coordinated the event in Hermantown and was getting a big kick out of it.

"How much fun is this," Risacher said after helping a little girl pound nails. "We're really happy with the turnout. We would have been swamped if more kids had shown up on our first day, but we were ready."

Kids Build workshops will be held at the Jerry Alander Training Center, 5238 Miller Trunk Highway, Hermantown, MN 55811. Remaining events will be held Saturdays, February 13, March 12, April 9 and May 14.

To register, go online at <http://tinyurl.com/jnwn6f>.

For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/KidsBuildworkshop](http://www.facebook.com/KidsBuildworkshop)

Carpenters are running similar programs in Fargo, the Twin Cities, Sioux Falls, Omaha, and other cities where they have training centers.



AFSCME 695's Dave Anderson brought his all business sons, Charlie and Caleb, to the Carpenter's "Kids Build" event at their Hermantown training center Saturday.