

Forging Excellence – Becoming a Master Ferrier in 36 weeks

By Dana Cowsert, Senior Career Coach, Proteus, Inc.



Connor at work as a farrier



Connor forging a horseshoe



Dana Cowsert, Senior Career Coach

Connor grew up around horses and trains horses for barrel riding. He and his family also compete in barrel racing. However, Connor saw a need to upskill in his daily work with horses. During his research of farrier training in the Indiana area, Connor was connected to Proteus and the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP).

Connor was found eligible for NFJP services and enrolled in courses with The Troy Price Horseshoeing School in Indiana. The training was hard work and long hours. To attain excellence, he had to spend hours outside the classroom training, practicing, and putting in 12 – 16 hours a day. Shoeing is hard work and takes lots of energy, so Connor learned to take care of himself by eating healthy and keeping in shape.

The hard work and long hours did not slow Connor down. In fact, he asked to extend his training from the 24-week Advanced Course to the 36-week Journeyman Course, because he felt that he could do it – and do it well. During a visit to the training school, Senior Career Coach Dana Cowsert saw evidence of this when she saw Connor in action forging a horseshoe. Connor completed his 36-week training with excellence, so impressing the instructor with his skill and talent that he was invited back to assist with future classes.

Not only does Connor now have trimming, horseshoeing, and forging skills, but he is also certified for horseshoe modifications to build therapeutic horseshoes. Connor is officially certified as a Master Farrier and is self-employed. Connor was pleased that he had 70 head of horses on his books the very first week he graduated from training and that he has other referrals coming in because of his excellent training, skill, and talent.

You might see Connor set up and working at Indiana horse shows and rodeos. We at Proteus wish the best to Connor in his new career!