

NZCB Apprenticeship Challenge: Entry Guide



About the Apprenticeship Challenge

The NZCB Apprenticeship Challenge is delivered in partnership with BCITO and Mitre 10 Trade. The challenge celebrates up and coming leaders in the construction sector, puts their carpentry skills to the test and provides an opportunity to connect with local communities.

Now in its sixteenth year, the Apprenticeship Challenge has become one of the biggest events on the construction industry calendar.

Entrants will compete at regional heats around the country on Saturday 18 April 2026 in an 8-hour practical build, creating a project to donate to their local community. Up to 22 finalists going through to the national final at the NZCB Conference & Expo in Auckland in June 2026 to complete for the winning title and up to \$10,000 worth of prizes.

Why enter?

Aside from a chance to win amazing prizes, taking part in the Apprenticeship Challenge helps you take your carpentry career to new heights. It's an incredible opportunity to meet other apprentices, industry leaders and build your network. It is also a chance to have an impact and work with your local community. This is more than a build; it's about giving back.

What to expect

- **Design concept:** NZCB will share the design concept ahead of entries opening to give entrants an idea of what they will be building at the regional heat.
- **Community engagement:** Entrants must find a deserving recipient in their community to donate their finished project to and document the process.
- **Build plans:** The detailed build plans are shared with entrants the week before the regional heats. Judging will determine who makes it through to the national final.
- **Finalists presentation:** Finalists will present their project and portfolio, highlighting their progress as an apprentice and the deserving recipient of their build.

- **Skills test:** In addition to the presentation, finalists also complete a scenario-based and practical skills test to assess technical ability and problem-solving.

Who can enter?

- Entry is open to all carpentry apprentices in New Zealand of any age, in any stage of their apprenticeship.
- Entrants must be enrolled in a recognised apprenticeship programme and up to date with any fees or training related expenses.
- Finalists must still be an apprentice at the time of the national final to compete.

Entry information

- Entry is free for apprentices employed by NZCB members or training through BCITO.
- For all other apprentices, there is an entry fee of \$50.
- Entry fees are donated to the NZCB Apprenticeship Trust.

Key dates

- Entries open: 27 January 2026
- Entries close: 16 March 2026
- Regional heat: 18 April 2026
- National final: 5-6 June 2026

Want to find out more?

For more information and to enter head to apprenticeshipchallenge.nz.

If you have any questions, reach out to our team at learn@nzcb.nz.

