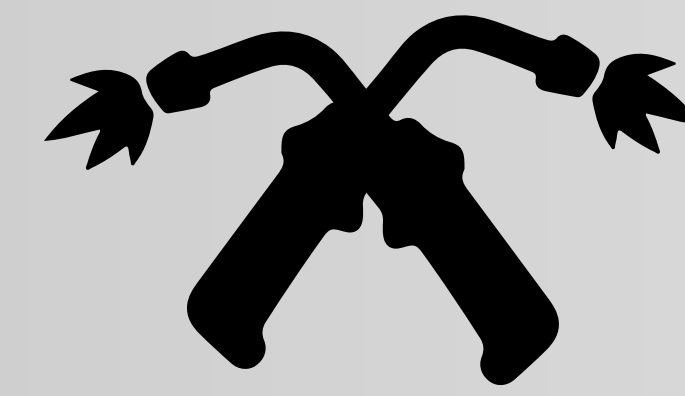


FORGING THE FUTURE

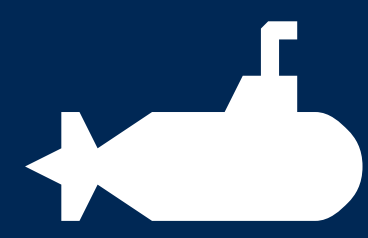
PROJECT-BASED WELDING EDUCATION SUPPORTING MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING GIANTS SUMMER WELDING CAMP 2026



**GEORGIA TRADE SCHOOL, SPARKFORCE,
BOLLINGER & BUILD SUBMARINES**

INDUSTRY NEED



The United States maritime industry faces critical need for skilled welders to support the construction and sustainment of submarines and surface-ships.



The U.S. Navy estimates the need for 250,000 new workers over the next decade.



Developing early pathways into welding and other skilled trades is an important part of strengthening this workforce pipeline.

(U.S. Navy, Maritime Industrial Base Program, 2025)



FINISH STRONG

The camp concluded by connecting the skills students developed in the shop to the larger welding industry. Students experienced GTAW demonstrations on stainless steel and aluminum, celebrated their accomplishments during a camp cookout, and joined an AWS virtual session highlighting scholarship opportunities and pathways for continuing their welding education.



FROM PRACTICE TO FABRICATION

Students progressed from introductory practice welds to real-world fabrication throughout the camp. After developing foundational skills with SMAW, GMAW, and FCAW processes, students applied what they learned to fit, assemble, and weld their own rocket stove. The project challenged students to move beyond running beads and begin thinking like fabricators- measuring, fitting, troubleshooting, and adapting when things did not go as planned.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Building Giants Summer Camp provided students with an introduction to welding, but the larger goal was to show students where those skills can lead. Through exposure to industry partners and maritime career pathways, students learned how welding skills can lead to careers in shipbuilding, submarine construction, advanced manufacturing, and other skilled trades. Future camps can build on this experience through expanded industry partnerships, additional project-based learning, and continued connections to education, scholarships, and employment opportunities.

CAMP OBJECTIVES

Building Giants was designed to introduce students ages 14-17 to welding through a safe, hands-on learning experience. Students explored multiple welding processes, developed basic fabrication skills, and applied those skills to a completed project. Through industry engagement and career discussions, the camp also introduced students to opportunities in shipbuilding, submarine construction, and the broader skilled-trades workforce.

