

THE OFFICE FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT *at Common Grounds*

Date: May 20, 2025



Goals & Agenda

Goals

- Show who we are and what we offer
- Help staff connect their work to youth programs
- Share how you can get involved or refer others

Agenda

- > OYE History and Mission
- > Resources for staff, departments, and colleges
- > Local engagement opportunities
- > Professional development and networking



Icebreaker

Quick Poll

How many of you work with youth directly or know someone on campus who does?

tx.ag/OYEpoll



Who We Are & Why it Matters

Launched in 2023 to **expand and elevate** youth engagement at Texas A&M

We seek to:

- support programs that serve children and teens, focused on post-secondary access
- provide resources that enhance the quality and impact of existing programs
- create new programs that fill key gaps in youth programming on campus and in communities
- make Texas A&M a leader in youth engagement across Texas



What We Offer to Staff



Aggie Camp Finder

Tool for finding summer programs and special events hosted by A&M



Camp Scholarships

Need-based scholarships and giveaways for summer camps on campus



LevelUp Texas Club

Resources and tools for parents and caregivers

A large dark red circle containing the text "AGGIE CAMP FINDER" in white, bold, outlined letters. The circle is overlaid on a grayscale photograph of a group of young people wearing hard hats and safety vests, standing in a hallway.

**AGGIE
CAMP
FINDER**

Aggie Camp Finder

youthcamps.tamu.edu



- > **What is a camp you were surprised to learn we offer?**
- > **What is a camp or program you would like to see that doesn't currently exist?**
- > **What is a program you know about that you think should be on here but isn't?**

Support for Departments & Colleges

New Programs

NCTM: *BioForce Camp*

Entomology Department: *Entomology Camp*

Beef Cattle Short Course: *Youth Track*

Aggieland Saturday: *Youth Track*

Program Enhancement

Poultry Science Camp: parent workshops, student panels

AggieSTEM: New staff transition support

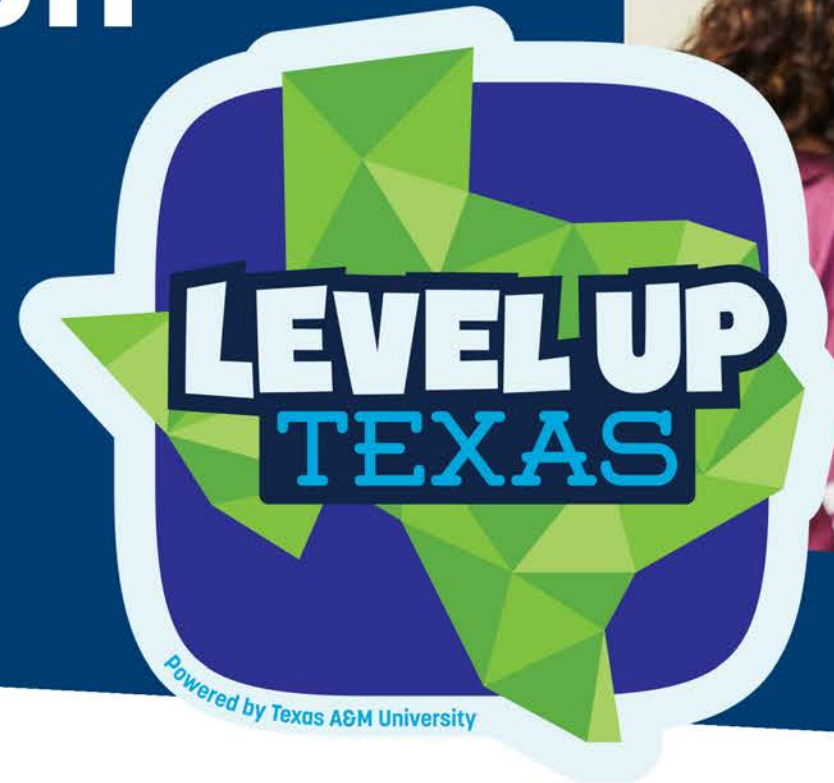
Camp BUILD: corporate partnerships

Dining Services: negotiated rates for youth program meals



Regional Impact: Dallas & Houston

LevelUp Texas Initiative



In-School Work

Activity-based lessons that reinforce career exploration and post-secondary awareness

CBO Partnerships

Adding value to existing work that aligns with our mission and reaches under-served communities

Events

Sponsorship and participation in large-scale events that promote college and career exploration for K-8 students

Wage Gauge Activity

The Wage Gauge is a quick, hands-on activity we use with 7th graders to introduce the concept of average salary and prompt them to start thinking about financial realities.



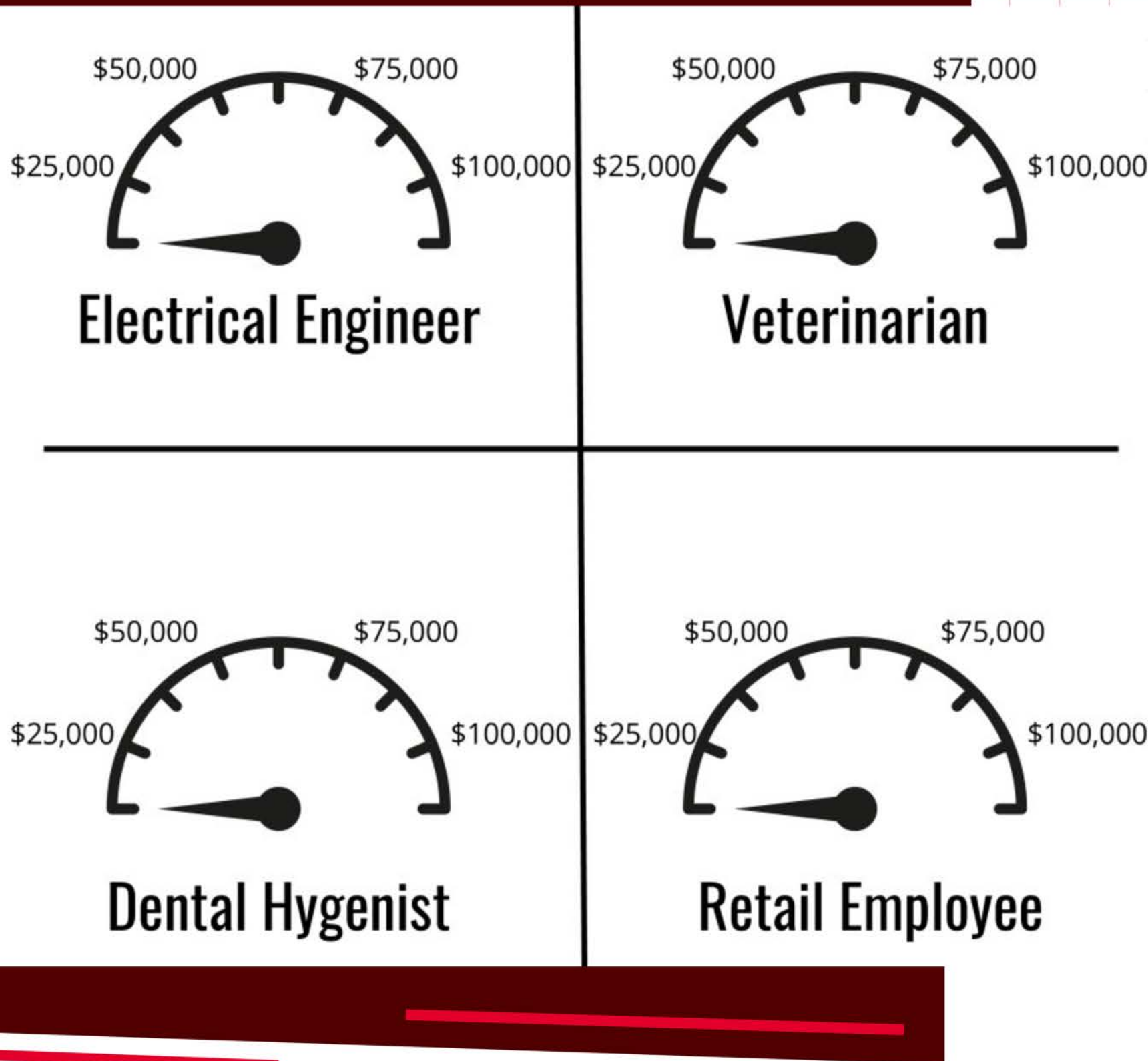
Your Turn!

Give it a try! Indicate on the gauge what you think the average salary is for a person in each of these jobs in Texas.



Debrief Conversation

- Were you surprised?
- Would knowing the average salary change how you think about a career?
- How might level of education play into salary?



Local Youth Engagement



Partnerships

Supporting programs that enhance career exploration for local youth through direct service or networking



Aggieland Saturday

Youth-specific content for students below 11th and 12th grade attending this event



Youth Career Fair

8th Grade career exploration event highlighting local businesses and higher education pathways



BVYEC

We convene a group of local nonprofits and educational entities that serve local youth to network and collaborate

Youth Career Fair



If your college or department were to come to this event, what are some activities or demonstrations you might use to highlight your career field?

Annual Symposium on *Youth Engagement and Collaborative Innovation*



Professional Development

Best practices related to risk mitigation, youth development, and program planning.

Networking

Fostering collaboration and sharing best practices across colleges, units, and agencies.

How You Can Help



Send People Our Way

Refer colleagues who work with youth – or who are interested in starting – to our Office!



Share Camp + Program Information

Help us spread the word about the Aggie Camp Finder so that staff can learn about summer camps as well as day programs and special events!



Stay In the Loop

Join our newsletter and follow us on social media so that you can learn about what we're up to and other ways you can support this effort!



STAY CONNECTED

Email

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Website

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Location

Rudder Tower, 9th Floor

Sign up for
the newsletter



tx.ag/OYEnews

