

VR Success Story: Self-Advocacy Gets the Job Done



IDVR Mission is to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career opportunities while meeting the needs of the employers.



CALEB'S SUCCESS STORY

Occupation: Maintenance and Repair Helper

Location: St. Anthony, Idaho

Weekly Hours: 30

"I've always liked rocks and minerals. I've been fascinated by them my whole life, that's why I wanted to work for my current employer." - Caleb, VR Customer

- Caleb applied for IDVR services in February 2021 as a Youth with the goal to obtain his first employment position.
- Caleb identified a specific local business in town that he had a strong interest in working for as their business aligned with his personal interests.
- Caleb and his VR Counselor then worked together to write a resume and practice how to approach the employer to express his interest in working for their business.
- Caleb then reached out to Yellowstone Gem World and was able to speak with the owners who indicated they did not have an opening at the business of interest, but their overarching business, Idaho Bling Bling, had a business need for assistance with remodeling the Roxie Theater Building.
- Caleb was offered employment as a maintenance and repair helper to help meet this business need. Caleb gladly accepted their offer for part-time employment.
- In addition to his work revitalizing the space at the Roxie Theater, Caleb also assists their subsidiary business Yellowstone Gem World with transporting and setting up the displays of the rock and mineral merchandise for the trade shows.
- Caleb's VR Counselors also provided him with support to understand various aspects that came with his first employment position including assisting him with completing Benefits Planning to ensure he understand the impact of work and his earnings on his SSI benefits.
- Due to Caleb's commitment, passion, and work ethic displayed in his position he has been able to continue to expand his duties and responsibilities, such as assisting with the trade shows, and is looking forward to learning additional new skills.

"It's been amazing to watch Caleb gain confidence. He knew what job he wanted and reached out to me for help. He was polite but persistent and ended up with exactly the job that he hoped for."

Sheila Hadden, VR Counselor

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