

What's Next?

A Guide for North Carolina Teens Wondering What's After High School?

CHOICES *for*

- ◆ Adventure
- ◆ Job Training
- ◆ Skill Training
- ◆ Money for College
- ◆ A Chance to Serve Your Country

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American Friends
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Quaker values in action

Orita Program
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NC Choices for Youth

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NC Choices for Youth has compiled this guide, representing the work of many organizations, from freely available websites on the Internet. These groups provide opportunities to youth in work, study, and life. To promote their mission, we have summarized their websites, using quotations to indicate direct reference or simply paraphrasing to give a flavor of the program. We hope the citation of the original website will be your ultimate guide to that program. Remember that websites change so check their root addresses as well.

We want to credit the work of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Southern California for our initial inspiration for *What's Next*. Their guide has evolved and is now known as ***Great Careers—Alternatives to the Military Booklet (second edition)*** produced through a collaboration of AFSC Los Angeles and CAMS, Coalition Against Militarism In Our Schools.

All information contained in this publication is subject to changes by the individual institutions offering the programs. If you need further information, or have suggestions that should be included in this publication, or if you want to support our efforts in helping career seekers, please contact AFSC Orita Program or NC Choices for Youth at the above addresses and numbers.

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What's Next?

What choices do you have to find adventure, job training, skills, money for college, or a chance to serve your country after high school? This “news guide” lists a variety of opportunities for training, internships, apprenticeships, and education that can lead to **rewarding, exciting, and well-paid jobs and careers.**

“What’s Next” has information about finding money for college or other higher education and training. It also has ideas about how to survive the transition from high school to the real world—especially if you’re not planning on college right now.

“What’s Next” has articles on how to think about what you’ll want to do, how to get more information on careers, and some very cool ways you can serve your country and make money for college at the same time. For many of these opportunities, you don’t have to have a high school diploma or GED, and joining any of these programs does not mean a long-term commitment.

Most of the opportunities in “What’s Next” **do not** require years of education, training, or commitment. Many of them are **short-term programs** that you can be part of while you support yourself or while gaining work skills and life experience.

While you are working and learning, you’ll become more aware of what you value, what’s important to you in a job, and what you really want from life. You’ll also be able to save money for college or higher education.

You may feel pressure from your family, from various recruiters, or from friends or teachers to make a decision now—but **you do not have to make a decision quickly** that you later might regret.

This information is meant to help you get started. Once you begin exploring all the possibilities, you will find even more options not listed here.

Remember!

It’s not necessary to know or decide RIGHT NOW what you want to do with your whole life!!