



If you are looking for exciting work that makes a difference by keeping your peers safer . . .

If you desire a part-time job that pays well with a flexible schedule . . .

If you are thinking of pursuing a career in law enforcement . . .

If you are looking for unique experience for your college applications or résumé . . .

Then This Is the Job for You!

Contacts

Call the Enforcement office in your area for more details or to apply.

ABC Regional Enforcement Offices

Alexandria

6308 Grovedale Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 518-8090

Hampton

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Richmond (North)

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Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 213-4620

Roanoke/Abingdon

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Chesapeake

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Chesapeake, VA 23320
(757) 424-6700

Lynchburg

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Lynchburg, VA 24502
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Richmond (South)

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Staunton/Charlottesville

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Underage Operatives Make a Difference



Exciting work.
Good money.
Assisting law enforcement.

Virginia ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement

Underage Operatives Make a Difference

“I could not have asked for a better job. I was lucky to have found this opportunity. At first it was just a job to me, but then I realized the importance of the Underage Buyer program. When I attended a Judges Conference, one judge made a comment that deeply affected me; he said I should be proud of my work because I had made an impact on people.”

—Samantha Triplett, two-year underage buyer, Chesapeake Regional Enforcement Office

“Underage operatives are invaluable. Some are curious about a career in law enforcement, while others are just looking for a unique opportunity. At their age, there aren’t many part-time jobs that make a difference as much as this job.”

—Roy E. Nixon, special agent, Abingdon Regional Enforcement Office

The Facts

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) frequently recruits teenage youth for part-time employment in its Underage Buyer (UB) program. The UB program is an ongoing effort by ABC to visit alcohol and tobacco retailers throughout the Commonwealth to verify compliance with the state age requirements—18 for tobacco and 21 for alcohol sales.

Candidates must be 15–17 years of age to qualify for the tobacco program and 17–19 years of age for the alcohol program. Operatives must be willing to testify in court if necessary, and they are asked to refrain from discussing their ABC activities with others to protect the integrity of the program. The hourly rate is \$8.96 an hour.

The Assignment

Special agents, who are sworn police officers from ABC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement, accompany underage operatives during attempts to purchase cigarettes or alcohol at grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants and other businesses, including state ABC stores. The operatives are instructed not to alter their appearance or mannerisms or mislead clerks in any way while attempting to make a purchase. Operatives carry their own valid identification. If the store clerk asks for ID, the UB presents his or her valid identification. Regardless of whether the sale is made, the operative leaves the store immediately after the attempt.

It is not ABC’s intention to trick businesses. In fact, it is the hope of ABC that 100 percent of the businesses comply with Virginia law by not making the sale. ABC selects operatives who look their age, making it easier for clerks and servers to request ID and avoid the sale.

The Purpose

ABC promotes zero tolerance for underage alcohol consumption as one of its most important messages. The agency is working to address the problem of underage drinking, and efforts seem to be paying off. Youth access to alcohol in Virginia is diminishing as evidenced by the latest UB program statistics. Operative participation has greatly contributed to these promising outcomes.

In 2004, 97 percent of the personnel in ABC retail stores refused to make the sale during the UB checks, and 91 percent of employees in convenience stores, restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses with ABC licenses successfully avoided the sale. For the tobacco checks, 90 percent of retailers refused the sale, up nearly 23 percent since ABC began UB tobacco checks in 1998.

Although these percentages are impressive, our work is not over. ABC special agents throughout the state complete nearly 400 alcohol and tobacco compliance checks every month and need to continually recruit underage buyers. ABC special agents need your help. . . .

