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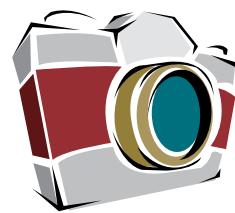


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SBCA member Rocky Mountain Truss Co (Havre, MT) recently hosted a class of students for a tour of its truss plant. The tour was part of a hands-on learning program that teaches kids about building construction. Jesse Lohse, general manager, explained the North Central Montana Youth Build program helps at-risk students complete their high school diplomas while learning the valuable trade skills. "During the fall semester they do classroom work. In the spring they build two houses in a modular style," he said. The components are then shipped to a local Indian reservation, where the kids help assemble them. The finished homes are eventually occupied by residents of the reservation.

"It was a great opportunity for the kids to see how an important part of a house is built," said Steve Newbury, Program Instructor for Youth Build. Lohse said, "It's not about having a high school diploma for us. It's about showing up on time and knowing about our trade." **SBC**

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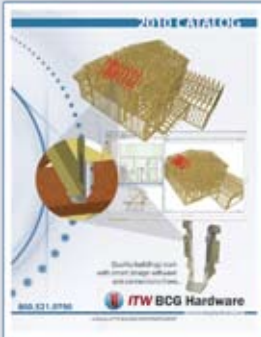
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