



# Seth Lewis

## TRADE



By the time he was 15, Seth Lewis had charted a career path – a decision spurred by a local electrician who was doing work at his parents' home.

Now, at 21, his career goal is within reach.

The Marion native graduated high school early through homeschooling, earned an associate degree in Electrical Technology from Madisonville Community College by age 19, and even helped teach college students the semester after graduating. Now he is well on his way toward becoming a master electrician.

Those achievements, coupled with his work ethic and commitment to his hometown, earned Lewis recognition in the trade category of The Crittenden Press' 10 Under 40 community recognition program.

For Lewis, success has never been about taking the quickest path. It's about taking the right one.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else doing it," he said.

Lewis discovered his passion for electrical work as a teenager after local electrician Tony Chandler came to his family's home for a project. While his family tackled most home repairs themselves, electrical work was one area they left to a professional. Watching Chandler work sparked something.

"I thought it was worth checking out," Lewis said. "I started shadowing him, and it just took off from there."

That early opportunity led to more than a year of experience working alongside Chandler while Lewis was still in school.

The 2022 graduate took dual-credit courses at Madisonville Community College. His success in the electrical program led instructors to invite him back the following semester to assist with teaching an electrical technologies class.

"I'd help monitor the classroom and answer questions," he said. "If something was over my head, I'd get the instructor."

Lewis credits homeschooling with giving him flexibility while still providing opportunities to stay connected with others.

"A lot of people think the social aspect isn't there," he said. "But my parents made sure I stayed involved. It really wasn't an option not to be social."

Today, Lewis works full time with electrician Randy Dunn while completing the experience required to earn his master electrician's license. Thanks to his college education, three years were credited toward Kentucky's licensing requirements, significantly shortening the traditional eight-year path.

Lewis has accumulated thousands of the required 16,000 hours in the field through his day-time job and evening side work. Most days begin at 7:30 a.m. and don't end until well after dark.

Long hours don't bother him because he genuinely enjoys the work.

One of the greatest rewards, he says, comes from seeing a project completed with pride.

He believes quality extends beyond whether electrical systems function properly. He wants customers to recognize the care that goes into every detail.

"Customer satisfaction is a big thing for me. I don't want anybody to feel like I did them wrong," he said.

Working alongside Dunn has taught Lewis far more than wiring techniques. He has learned the realities of running a business — preparing bids, managing unexpected changes on job sites, communicating with customers and solving problems as they arise.

"So much of it is just the day-to-day," Lewis said. "He's taught me how to handle things that you can't account for."

Eventually, Lewis plans to open his own electrical business, a goal motivated by both independence and his desire to remain rooted in Crittenden County.

"This is home," he said. "I have no desire to move away."

He sees plenty of opportunity in the electrical trade, noting that the average electrician is nearing retirement age while relatively few young people are entering the profession.

"There aren't many electricians coming up," he said.

When the time comes to work entirely for himself, Lewis hopes to hire an assistant to help manage the growing workload. Fortunately, he says, electrical contracting requires relatively little overhead compared to many businesses.

"You really just need a truck and your tools," he said.

Despite already having nearly seven years of experience in the trade, Lewis says he still enjoys learning. Larger commercial projects have expanded his knowledge, but the biggest lessons now often involve finding more efficient ways to complete the work.

"It's more about better techniques," he said. "Work smarter, not harder."

For someone who graduated early, entered his profession as a teenager and is steadily working toward becoming a master electrician before many of his peers have settled into careers, Lewis represents the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

More importantly, he represents something increasingly valuable: a young professional committed to investing his talents where he grew up.

For Seth Lewis, success isn't measured by leaving home. It's measured by helping build it.

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