

Joseph Dabbs, Senior Director, Advance Travel and Tourism

We could have been lawyers. We could have been dentists. We could have been accountants. But no, we decided to pursue careers in tourism. In our Dream Jobs series, we interview some of the best and brightest within the tourism industry about how they broke in and get their advice to the next generation of tourism leaders.

Today, we feature Joseph Dabbs, Senior Director at Advance Travel and Tourism.

How long have you been at your job? In my current role, three years but been with my company for six years.

What's your favorite thing about your job? From a professional perspective, knowing that a successful campaign can actually create an overall positive impact for a community and the people who depend on tourism for their livelihood. From a personal perspective, I get to adventure out to all sorts of new places and meet new people.

What's your advice to young people looking to break in to tourism?

Ask questions! In our community there is a great chance that someone has already experienced any situation you will face – so ask questions and take notes. I'm a big believer in learning from others who have been there before you but don't be afraid to challenge the status quo and add your unique touch.

First job? Ever? Yard guy at 12 years old. First legal? Warehouse help at Smith Brothers Sporting Goods. Out of college? Property Manager for a commercial real estate company.

Worst job? Property Manager with Bridge Properties. Hated it! Fixing toilets and changing ballast are not my forte.

If you didn't work in tourism, what industry would you want to work in? The outdoor industry. I believe outdoor recreation continues to become more sought after by weekend warrior family types, creating a need for educated guide services and outfitters to help keep things simple but safe.

My true dream job would be an adventure guide who takes groups on mountain bike, hiking and kayaking adventures but my wife and kids like to be around me too much for me to do that...

But I do love what I do. I love how a successful campaign can truly benefit a community and create a positive impact for the people who live there. I love the people I work with. It's unlike any other industry that I have been a part of. My clientele in tourism truly embrace the word partnership.

Want a career in tourism? Check out our [jobs board](#) filled with great jobs located all over the Southeast: