

Session Three

Exploring Careers

ACTIVITY A: Field Trip

Objectives: Parents will –

- Identify a variety of careers and jobs in a local business
- Learn the basic requirements and characteristics of those careers and jobs.

OVERVIEW

A field trip for parents (and students, if practical) to a major business with many types of career options in one location is one way to get first-hand information about various careers. Before implementing this activity, however, you will need to identify and work with a business partner to plan a meaningful experience for your participants. The partner must be willing to arrange the visit, an overview of the business, its mission and products, and a tour of the facility. Of greatest value will be an opportunity for your parents and students to meet personally with employees who represent jobs in which they have an interest.

One of your parents might be an appropriate and interested business partner or know of someone willing to arrange a visit.

ACTION ONE: Preparation

- In advance of the visit, work with your business partner to develop a survey of the types of jobs or careers at the work site. Then create a survey to help parents and students identify the types of careers or jobs in which they have an interest. Provide the survey to your business partner who can line up people at the job site who are willing to visit with parents and students.
- Ahead of the visit, ask parents and students to prepare a series of questions they want to ask various employees. For example, what about job skills, educational requirements, salary range, specific responsibilities, job satisfaction, and opportunities for advancement? What is the relationship between what a student is learning in school now and what will be used on the job? What other jobs are available in this career field? And so forth.
- Share questions with your business partner who may want to share them with his/her volunteers.
- Talk over with your participants what they want to get out of the session and what to expect upon their arrival. Set goals for your visit.

- Provide guidelines for dress and other types of behavior that is appropriate for your group.
- Arrange for transportation at a time that is convenient to most participants.

ACTION TWO: *The Visit*

- Arrange time for a question and answer period following the tour and the personal visits with employees.
- Encourage parents and kids to ask questions.
- Arrange for bathroom breaks and refreshments
- If possible, have the employees involve participants in a work-related activity.

REVIEW – *After the Visit*

- Write thank you letters, either individually or as a group to everyone involved.
- Discuss what participants learned from their visit that impressed them the most.
- Arrange for participants to give a presentation on their visit for people who were unable to go or for students in ScholarShop.
- Allow for reflection –

Did you change your perception of a job or your interest in a job or career field as a result of this visit?

Did we prepare adequately for the visit? What could we have done differently?

What similar learning/career discovery activity can we undertake to help our children understand the wide opportunities available?