

PROGRAM:

Eighth Grade Career Showcase

OBJECTIVES:

Provide information and motivation to eighth grade students about careers and the postsecondary training they will need to achieve their future goals.

LOCATION:

Middle Schools and a College Campus

DESCRIPTION:

Students learn that most job choices can be described within six career pathways:

- Fine Arts and Humanities
- Business and Marketing
- Engineering/Technical
- Health
- Human Services
- Science and Natural Resources

The 8th Grade Career Showcase booklet lists occupations under each pathway, and presents questions to students about personal qualities that they may have that would indicate a career pathway that would be appropriate given their interests. During the pre-event activities, students complete a short assignment, identifying three career pathways that they might want to investigate at the Showcase.

During the Showcase at the college, sample questions are given the students to ask employers at the event. Students attend at least three presentations about careers and use a guided tour worksheet to describe the career they hear about. The worksheet has the following categories:

- Describe the career (hours, working conditions, etc.)
- What are the requirements for the career? Education, trainings, other requirements?
- What are the career rewards? Salary and benefits, retirement benefits, promotions, Perks.
- What does the future look like for this career and what interests YOU about this job?

After the Career Showcase field trip visit to a college, students develop their presentations and construct visual displays reflecting the careers they have chosen. The display is used during a 3-minute oral presentation to the student's class about the chosen career. Visual displays are judged on the following criteria:

- Information- Clear, focused, complete and accurate.
- Organization- Logical and complete plan and layout; clear, original title.
- Illustration- Visuals support written material.
- Language- Prescriptive vocabulary, grammar and spelling.
- Originality.

The oral presentations are judged on the following criteria:

- Presenter's time was used effectively.
- Presenter's use of visual display
- Presenter Eye Contact.
- Presenters voice was loud, clear, and lucid.
- Presenter's ideas were clear and easy to understand.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

- All students receive the 8th Grade Career Showcase booklet.
- Students complete short assignments.
- All 8th graders identify three career pathways they want to investigate at the Showcase.
- A keynote speaker and presenters are identified for the career showcase and provided instructions and ideas for effective presentations.
- Students are assigned to three sessions based on interests and availability.
- A final schedule is developed and made available to all personnel.
- Chaperones are assigned to monitor specific sessions.
- College and school district personnel serve as guides and monitors.
- Arrangements for lunch are made with the university personnel.

ACTIVITIES DURING PROGRAM:

- All students attend 3 career panels at a career showcase held at a community college, college or university, and record some important facts about these careers.
- Lunch is provided on campus.
- A final, full-group session features selected students talking about highlights of the experience before loading buses to return to schools.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- All students construct a display (bulletin board, storyboard, mobile, PowerPoint presentation, video, etc.) and an oral presentation on a chosen career.
- The displays are used when each student gives a 2-3 minute long oral presentation to their class about their career ambitions.
- Students have chances to win recognition and prizes for exemplary presentations.
- The top presenter from each school is chosen for regional competition at a College Campus Career Showcase event.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

Bus transportation and lunches. Usually there are about 65-85 presenters at the career showcase, and they donate their services. This provides a great opportunity for gaining program cost share.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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