

JA Inspire Student Engagement

Career development activities for middle school students focus on exploring how one's own abilities, preferences, values, and goals relate to various career fields. Students are still being exposed to new careers while considering if they can realistically see themselves in a certain career path.

Thank you so much for your willingness to share about your business and/or career with our students!

Who is your audience?

- Middle school students can be active even while sitting, can look disinterested, and can blurt questions or responses or not respond at all. Don't be alarmed!
- Students of this age connect well with personal stories that go along with content. Avoid unrelated stories.
- Using pictures or visuals to illustrate a point is helpful. Avoid graphic pictures and unprofessional language.
- Related, hands-on activities are required. If using a group activity, use creativity to create groups and avoid students picking their own groups.

Tips & Tricks:

- Showing energy, excitement, and happiness toward your occupation is key to helping students stay engaged.
- Keep language simple and be sure to provide a definition and visual or picture if using lingo or acronyms.
- Share a story of how you became interested in this career field. Explain what critical experiences helped you choose your career.
- There are several types of learners in the room! If students can see, hear, and do something as part of your presentation, you will have involved different learning styles. Pictures, demonstrations, or small activities are encouraged.

Suggested topics to include:

- Explain what a typical day is like in your work.
- In what setting(s) does your work usually take place?
- What education/training does one need in your job?
- Share a salary range for your career field.
- What school subjects, skills, or traits are important to your job? What might go wrong in your work without these (academic, soft-skills, hard-skills, etc.)?
- How does your work impact others/society?
- How do you get to be creative in your job?
- If interested, what can students start doing now to learn more (books, camps, activities, videos, volunteering, etc.)?



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