



## Volunteer Instructions

# CAREER PATHS Activity

### Setup:

- Place the 16 “Career Information Posters” around the room. Note: Students will be looking at these to determine job interests. **Hang them up in numerical order so they are easy to locate, and allow enough space between the posters so that the students are not crowded.**

### Goal:

- Students will become aware of the 16 career clusters and discover which cluster may suit them based on their career interest survey results.
- They will also discover the different careers paths within that cluster that might be of interest to them.

**\*When text is in red, please read it to the students exactly as written.**

**Introduce yourself and briefly share your career/education background.**

### Opening Comments: (3-5 minutes)

- In this activity, you will explore 16 different career categories. These categories will help you think about careers based on your skills and interests. These categories are called Career Clusters, which are groups of jobs and industries related by the knowledge and skills they require.
- Refer to the career cluster chart and briefly review it with the students. (The print is very small so it’s better to walk around the classroom and show it to the students than hang it in the front of the room.) Explain that each cluster includes multiple jobs and careers. Describe how your personal job, past or present, fits within a specific career cluster.
- Explain that to find a personal career path, it’s important to break larger categories or career clusters into specific jobs. For example, a student may want to work with animals, but would they rather be a veterinarian, a medical researcher, a zookeeper or a dog groomer? The training, the duties, and the salary will be very different from one job to another.

## **Activity 1- Career Interest Survey: (Time will vary)**

- You will find that, after giving directions, the students will be working independently in this activity, and they will be working at all different speeds. Some students will finish quickly while others need more time to read through the survey.
- Hand out a Career Interest Survey packet to each student. Explain that the survey will help match their interests with potential careers. Completing the career interest survey will help kick start their thoughts about the direction they may like to head with their future career plans.
- Indicate that each numbered box represents a different career cluster.
- Give the students all the directions for both activities first and then have them work at their own pace. Some will finish more quickly than others. Go over all the steps now so that as students finish, they can start moving around to the posters. Please watch for students to finish and remind them of the next steps.
- Please read these directions to the students once they have the packets in front of them:
  1. Starting with box #1, you will read each statement and check off the activities that interest you.
  2. You will then add the total number of check marks in the box and place the total number on the "Total Checks" line at the bottom of each box.
  3. Move on to Box #2 and then do the same thing for all 16 boxes.
    - Have students turn to page 3 of the packet titled **Career Interest Results**.
  4. After completing all 16 boxes, transfer the number of check marks in each numbered box from the earlier pages to the matching box number on the career interest results page; the boxes are the same colors to help you.
  5. The three boxes with the highest total are your top career clusters. **Circle these three boxes.**
    - Point out that these next directions are at the top of the results page if they need to read them again.
- Read the directions for Activity 2 before the students start working on the survey questions, but once the students start the survey, circulate around the room to monitor the students' progress as they work on Activity 1. Depending on how quickly the students read, they will finish this at different times. That's why you should read all the directions (including those for Activity 2) to students before they start working. As they finish Activity 1, you can guide them towards the posters to begin Activity 2.

## **Activity 2 – Career Information Posters; Determining a Potential Career: (Time will vary)**

- Please read these directions to the students.
- 1. After transferring the number of checkmarks to the "Career Interest Results," this should reveal which clusters may be best suited to you. (The top 3 should be circled.)
  - Refer to one of the career information posters that you have placed around the room.

2. There are 16 information posters throughout the room in numerical order. Each one is color coded to match the career cluster category box on your interest survey. For example, if your top interest was box #13, manufacturing, in the green box, then the information poster will be #13 and have a green banner at the top.
3. When you are ready, locate the career information poster for your top career cluster and read through the various careers. At the bottom of your Career Interest Results page (have them look at the bottom of the results page in their packet), you should write answers to these questions: What is your highest Career Cluster (or your favorite if there was a tie)? What is the career within the cluster that interests you? Write a description of the career. What is the education level for the job? (These questions are on their packet.) **They should then do the same thing for a second career within this same cluster if time allows.**
  - If the students still have additional time, they should go to the information poster for their next highest career cluster (also circled on their packet) and record the same information for one or two careers from this cluster on the back of their packet.
  - **Please monitor students as they are working. Remind them of the “next steps” once they add and transfer their numbers. Some students may only have a chance to take notes on one career, but others will have time for several. There should be no down time. If possible, allow about 5 minutes for talking points at the end of the activity.**

### Recap/Talking Points:

- Who had an idea of what they wanted to do before doing the survey? Did the survey match those interests?
- Was anyone surprised by the results of the survey? Did you find a career that you never considered before, or even a career you never heard of before?
- What were some of the career options that you saw for yourself today? Did the survey help you think about a potential future career?