



Envision Career Day Activity: “Dress for Success”

Here is your guideline for creating a fun and simple career-oriented activity for elementary school students, culminating in a “Dress for Success Parade of Careers.”

Career Discussions

Start this activity with an assessment of your students’ current career goals. You can conduct a survey, or simply initiate a conversation, by asking the class, “What is your dream job?” followed by, “Why?” The discussion will spark a level of personal investment in your students, which you will build on as you progress through the exercise, incorporating the students’ expressed interests.

Career Presentations (+/- 10 days)

Before your young students are ready to “dress for success,” they need to understand the wide variety of career choices available. Schedule daily 15-minute career presentations, over the course of two weeks (or longer). This material includes a list of career fields, each with links to pertinent YouTube videos, which will enhance your presentations. Please customize these presentations to any extent you wish, based on your students’ interests, age levels, etc.

Parade of Careers

Once you’ve introduced your students to the wealth of opportunity available to them, it’s time for the “Dress for Success Parade of Careers.” Schedule a day in which the students will come to school dressed in appropriate attire for their favorite job. Remind them that they are not limited to the careers featured in your presentations – they are free to pursue their own interests. If their chosen career has no specific uniform, urge them to find a prop or tool that might be used on the job – or to create a drawing of themselves in their dream job.

Make your “Career Parade” as fun and engaging as possible. As each student comes forward, the rest of their classmates can guess which career they’ve selected, either by their attire, or by a pantomime they conduct with their props. You may also solicit volunteers to speak in front of the class about their career aspirations. Share the excitement by taking your “parade” and presentations into other classes.

Let the fun – and inspiration – begin.

Career fields and videos provided on the following pages.



Sample Career Fields:

Medicine:

Jobs include: General practitioner, nurse, radiologist, surgeon, ER doctor, anesthesiologist, pediatrician, x-ray technician, phlebotomist, allergist, neurologist, oncologist, gynecologist, obstetrics and many more.

Education requirements: Varies, depending on specialty and level. RNs require a 4-year degree and med school requires 8 years of college (STEM). Some medical technician jobs are available without degrees, through training and certification programs.

Video: Trauma Doctors

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SL0EgIMpZU>

Video: Hospital Staff Preparing Child for Surgery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fXzsKqtqbw>

Video: Day in the Life of a Surgeon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seaKhjURPWW>

Law:

Jobs include: Judge, Supreme Court justice, attorney, bailiff, court reporter, etc.

Education requirements: Lawyers require 4-year degrees plus 2 years of law school. Bailiffs and court reporters do not require a college degree.

Video: Courtroom Scenes from Movies

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1Sbj_rITyY

Space Exploration:

Jobs include: A wide range of specialists, from trainers, to administrators to scientists, astronomers, mathematicians, aeronautical engineers, pilots and of course: astronauts.



Education requirements: Most astronauts have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. Some have military and/or piloting background. Specialists such as astronomers and aeronautical engineers usually have at least a master's degree in their field (strong STEM background).

Video: Space Shuttle Astronauts and Mission Control Personnel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8UCHvSK09E>

Video: NASA's Aeronautical Engineers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGbqMkq8z9A>

Art and Design:

Jobs include: Website or video game designer, photographer, fashion or costume designer, illustrator, film/TV special effects, architect, print ad designer, animator, comic book writer, fine arts specialist (painter, sculptor, etc.)

Education requirements: College design degree

Video: Graphic Artist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgq1LEdX2p0>

Culinary Arts:

Jobs include: Chef, caterer, food designer, restaurant manager, etc.

Education requirements: No specific degree is required, although many chefs attend culinary school. Others advance with on-the-job training.

Video: Chefs at Work
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53dRz-jNXN8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWajSN0mCq4>

Public Service:

Jobs include: Police department, fire fighter, paramedic, government positions



Education requirements: Most government officials hold college degrees (various fields). Many policemen and firemen do not, but must be accepted into the training program. Paramedics have a rigorous training program and require certification. Some two-year colleges offer paramedic programs.

Videos: First Responders

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPIF_MjgsS8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq7rdhZfyJc>

High-Tech:

Jobs include: Tech entrepreneur, engineer (electrical, hardware, mechanical, civil, etc.), software developer, computer/IT analyst, mathematician, database administrator, and more. High-tech firms also employ people in non-technical fields, such as marketing, sales and administration.

Education requirements: It is rare for high-tech specialists to not have college degrees (in science or math), and masters' degrees are usually recommended. However, the demand for these positions is so high, many companies take students straight out of 4-year college. Some tech entrepreneurs launch companies without finishing college.

Video: Working at Google

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9No-FiEInLA>

Military and Leadership:

Jobs include: A wide range of positions available in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard.

Education requirements: No college degree required, although *all officers* must have degrees.

Video: U.S. Army Officer Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Gx3oKac1A>

Video: West Point

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxD_eBRAiwk

Video: U.S. Armed Forces

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcUSDcMyKGw>



Travel Industry

Jobs include: Travel agent, tour guide, cruise director, guest services, flight attendant or pilot, corporate travel manager, wide range of positions in hotels or airports.

Education requirements: Varies widely, depending on specific jobs. Hotels and other travel centers often offer paths for advancement, without a degree.

Video: Working at an Airport
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK6JkKkINC4>

Research and Science

Jobs include: Physicist, chemist, biologist, astronomer, zoologist, geologist and many more.

Education requirements: Minimum of college degree (STEM); advanced degrees encouraged

Video: Physicists
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrrxNxDKtd8>

Video: Chemists
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=so-TcNxgIYI>

Animal Behavior

Jobs include: Zookeeper, animal trainer, researcher, wildlife biologist, etc.

Education requirements: College degree generally required (biology, zoology, entomology)

Videos: Training Animals at Sea World
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdNWJ54bQX8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4txGv9FbqM>