



## Volunteer Instructions:

# CAREER PATHS Activity

**Setup:** Hang the World at work Poster with tape supplied. Place the 16 “Career Information Sheets/Career Paths” around the room. Note: Students will be looking at these to determine job interests. **Hang them up in numerical order and allow enough space between the sheets so that the students are not crowded.**

**Goal:** To give the students an awareness of the 16 career clusters and discover what cluster may suit them based on their career interest survey results. Then, discover the different careers paths within that cluster that might be of interest to them.

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

**Opening Comments:** Tell the students that in this activity they will explore career options. Today’s activity will describe 16 different career categories. These categories will help them think about which ones might be interesting to them. These categories are called **Career Clusters**. Career Clusters are groups of jobs and industries that are related by the knowledge and skills they require.

Refer to the career cluster chart (in the volunteer folder) and briefly review it with the students. 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. They may want to work with animals, but would they rather be a veterinarian, a medical researcher, a zookeeper or a dog groomer?

Inform students that they will be completing a career interest survey to 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.

## Activity 1- When I grow up....

### STEPS:

- Hand out the career interest survey to each student.
- Indicate that each numbered box represents a different career cluster.
- Give the students all the directions 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.
- Directions to the students-
  - Starting with box #1, read each statement and check off the activities that interest you.
  - Add the total number of check marks in the box.
  - Place the total number on the "Total checks" line at the bottom of each box.
  - Move on to Box #2 and do the same thing.
  - After completing all 16 boxes, transfer the number of check marks in each numbered box to the corresponding number on the career interest results sheet (note: the boxes are color coded to match each corresponding number and career cluster).
  - The three boxes with the highest total are your top career clusters. **Circle them.**

## Activity 2 – Career Information Sheets; Determining a Potential Career

After answering the questions on the career interest survey and transferring the number of checkmarks to the "Career Interest Results," this should have revealed what clusters may be best suited to the students. (The top 3 should be circled.)

Refer to one of the career information sheets that you have placed around the room. Explain that there are 16 information sheets throughout the room in order. Each one is color coded to match the career cluster category on their interest survey. For example, if their top interest was box #14, marketing, pink, then the information sheet will have a pink banner at the top. When they are ready, help each student locate the career information sheet for their top career cluster; they should read through the various careers. At the bottom of their Career Interest Results paper, they should write answers to these questions: What is your top Career Cluster? What is the career within the cluster that interests you? Describe the career. What level of education will you need? (These questions are on their packet.) **They can then do the same thing for another career within this same cluster if time allows.**

If the students still have additional time, they should go to the information sheet for their next highest career cluster 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.**

**Discussion:** Who had an idea of what they wanted to do before doing the survey? Did the survey match those interests? What were some of the career options that you saw? Did the survey help you think about a potential future career?

## **End of Day Clean-Up Checklist – Place the following back in the bin:**

- **World at Work Poster (1)**
- **Career Information Sheets (16)**
- **USB drive with Opening Video**
- **QR Code for Opening Video**
- **Scratch Paper**
- **Tape**
- **Pencils**
- **Volunteer Instructions Folder**
  - **Volunteer Instructions**
  - **Career Cluster Chart**
  - **Recap Question Card (1)**
- **Thank the teacher for allowing JA in their classroom today.**
- **Return Bin to JA staff in hospitality area.**

**Smile. You made a difference today!**

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# Career Interest Survey

Put a check by the activities that interest you. Add the number of checks in each box and write it on the *Total Checks* line.

1

- ☐ Taking care of pets
- ☐ Planting small trees
- ☐ Planting and caring for flowers and plants
- ☐ Working in a garden & creating landscapes
- ☐ Nursing sick animals
- ☐ Grooming dogs, cats, and/horses
- ☐ Hiking and watching wildlife
- ☐ Learning how things grow and stay alive
- ☐ Identifying sick and/or dying plants

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

2

- ☐ Repairing small appliances
- ☐ Painting houses or buildings
- ☐ Using tools to make home repairs
- ☐ Cutting wood to build structures
- ☐ Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity
- ☐ Drawing floor plans
- ☐ Building simple circuit boards
- ☐ Laying brick or cinder block
- ☐ Following step-by-step instructions

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

3

- ☐ Performing (drama and/or dance)
- ☐ Creating graphic designs on a computer
- ☐ Creating an original video or film
- ☐ Sketching or painting
- ☐ Taking photographs
- ☐ Writing poems, stories or plays
- ☐ Making jewelry, sculpture, or other art
- ☐ Playing a musical instrument
- ☐ Being an announcer for a radio station

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

4

- ☐ Using a cash register
- ☐ Typing minutes of a school meeting
- ☐ Filing or sorting mail or papers
- ☐ Running your own business
- ☐ Creating web pages and designing layouts
- ☐ Managing tasks for a group
- ☐ Preparing reports and studying data
- ☐ Typing documents for other people
- ☐ Answering phones

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

# Career Interest Survey

Put a check by the activities that interest you. Add the number of checks in each box and write it on the *Total Checks* line.

5

- ☐ Working as a kids' camp counselor
- ☐ Tutoring young children
- ☐ Reading to young children
- ☐ Directing a school play
- ☐ Babysitting young children
- ☐ Shelving library books
- ☐ Peer counseling or helping friends get along
- ☐ Helping at Special Olympics events
- ☐ Teaching children in an after-school program

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

6

- ☐ Planning a stock market game
- ☐ Investing money and studying investments
- ☐ Balancing a checkbook
- ☐ Opening a savings/checking account
- ☐ Being a treasurer for a school club
- ☐ Organizing a fundraiser
- ☐ Collecting money for a school event
- ☐ Developing a budget
- ☐ Using spreadsheets and computer programs

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

7

- ☐ Campaigning for a political candidate
- ☐ Making political speeches
- ☐ Being a city planner
- ☐ Running for class office
- ☐ Preparing budgets
- ☐ Participating in a debate
- ☐ Volunteering as a political aide
- ☐ Learning a foreign language
- ☐ Researching and writing grants

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

8

- ☐ Taking care of a sick relative
- ☐ Watching hospital shows on TV
- ☐ Learning first aid and CPR
- ☐ Volunteering at a retirement home
- ☐ Volunteering as a hospital aide
- ☐ Using a stethoscope to listen to someone's heart
- ☐ Identifying human body parts from a picture
- ☐ Bandaging sport injuries with a trainer's help
- ☐ Responding calmly in emergencies

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

# Career Interest Survey

Put a check by the activities that interest you. Add the number of checks in each box and write it on the *Total Checks* line.

9

- ☐ Working in a restaurant
- ☐ Planning vacations and other events
- ☐ Cooking, baking, and serving meals
- ☐ Participating in sports activities
- ☐ Being a lifeguard
- ☐ Catering an event
- ☐ Working at a food stand
- ☐ Exercising and working out
- ☐ Being an official/umpire at a sporting event

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

10

- ☐ Making a family menu
- ☐ Working with older people
- ☐ Working at a shelter
- ☐ Shopping and comparing prices of goods
- ☐ Listening and helping friends with problems
- ☐ Participating in youth or community groups
- ☐ Making friends with different kinds of people
- ☐ Volunteering at a retirement home
- ☐ Volunteering as a big brother/big sister

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

11

- ☐ Developing software programs
- ☐ Building computers
- ☐ Playing video games
- ☐ Surfing the internet
- ☐ Learning how to run operating systems
- ☐ Installing software
- ☐ Assembling computer hardware
- ☐ Playing with electronic items
- ☐ Designing video games

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

12

- ☐ Reading mysteries
- ☐ Listening to a police scanner
- ☐ Watching mystery movies or courtroom shows
- ☐ Playing "Clue" or other mystery board games
- ☐ Volunteering in a lawyer's office
- ☐ Following court cases in the news
- ☐ Joining EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) training
- ☐ Searching for missing pets or people
- ☐ Participating in search and rescue training

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

# Career Interest Survey

Put a check by the activities that interest you. Add the number of checks in each box and write it on the *Total Checks* line.

13

- ☐ Welding or working with metals
- ☐ Repairing furniture
- ☐ Creating wood carvings
- ☐ Taking machine shop classes
- ☐ Making leather goods
- ☐ Using hand/power tools and operating machinery
- ☐ Installing and repairing electronics
- ☐ Building cabinets, shelves and other woodworking
- ☐ Putting things together

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

14

- ☐ Cutting and styling hair
- ☐ Selling items for a school fundraiser
- ☐ Taking tours of new houses for sale
- ☐ Designing or modeling clothes
- ☐ Giving people advice on products they should buy
- ☐ Decorating a house and rearranging furniture
- ☐ Planning and having a yard/garage sale
- ☐ Arranging and selling flowers
- ☐ Fixing watches and clocks

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

15

- ☐ Visiting science museums
- ☐ Designing experiments
- ☐ Exploring caves and collecting rocks
- ☐ Watching the weather and tracking storms
- ☐ Using computers to solve math problems
- ☐ Identifying plants, animals and/or marine life
- ☐ Solving environmental problems
- ☐ Building model aircraft/boats/trains
- ☐ Learning how things work/investigating new things

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

16

- ☐ Flying airplanes
- ☐ Repairing vehicles and engines
- ☐ Working in a warehouse
- ☐ Working on motorized machines or equipment
- ☐ Solving mechanical problems
- ☐ Building and repairing boats
- ☐ Operating a CB or ham radio
- ☐ Reading mechanical and car magazines/blogs
- ☐ Designing better ways of doing things

Total Checks \_\_\_\_\_

# Career Interest Results

Put the *total checks* number from the boxes on the Career Interest Survey into the boxes below (match the colors and numbers). The three boxes with the highest total are your top career clusters. Circle them.

1  
Agriculture,  
Food and Natural  
Resources  
—

2  
Architecture &  
Construction  
—

3  
Arts, Audio/Visual  
Technology &  
Communications  
—

4  
Business  
Management &  
Administration  
—

5  
Education &  
Training  
—

6  
Finance  
—

7  
Government and  
Public  
Administration  
—

8  
Health Science  
—

9  
Hospitality &  
Tourism  
—

10  
Human Services  
—

11  
Information  
Technology  
—

12  
Law, Public Safety,  
Corrections &  
Security  
—

13  
Manufacturing  
—

14  
Marketing  
—

15  
Science,  
Technology,  
Engineering & Math  
—

16  
Transportation,  
Distribution &  
Logistics  
—

Complete the section below using the career information sheets around the room.

Of the 3 career clusters circled above, my highest (or favorite if there's a tie) is:

The career I chose within this cluster is:

Description of this career:

Education Level:

The second career I chose within this same cluster is:

Description of this career:

Education Level:

If you have additional time, go to the information sheet for your next highest career cluster. Record the same information for one or two careers from this cluster on the back of this page.