



Field Trips Overview

Field trips are a great way to expose your students to opportunities and experiences which will help them to decide what trade they will go into. We often hear the exact moment a student determined what trade they would go into was the moment they picked up a specific tool. It helps the student to visualize themselves doing the work when they can hold the tools in their hand and create something. They begin the process of understanding that they can actually be successful in the trades when they see role models who look like them whom are successfully working in the trades.

- We go on field trips to both Union and Non-Union training centers. Field trips provide an opportunity for students to visibly see and experience the training facility as well as the staff who work there. The hosts usually speak to the students for about an hour and cover a list of talking points we provide prior to our visit.
- Training centers often provide hands on activities. The host will choose an activity that everyone can participate in safely. We require all students to use their PPE when participating in any hands on activity for safety reasons but to also train the students about the importance of using and remembering your PPE every day. Activities may include tool identification, welding demo's, building something specific to the trade, mucking cement, wiring a basic circuit, heavy equipment simulators, a basic carpentry task etc. The hands on activity gives the student valuable experience putting their hands on tools for the first time and it's often after trying an activity the students decides to go into that trade.
- We also schedule a walkthrough of a professional construction jobsite. Doing a walkthrough of a jobsite is an invaluable experience. It demonstrates the actual culture, the sounds, the smells and the pace at which construction happens in real time. It is helpful to ask the contractor prior to your visit to see if they can arrange for any tradeswomen employed on the job to speak to your group. We build relationships with local contractors who are willing to have groups come out for a tour. It's important to establish how many people will be in your group and how many chaperones the contractor requires to be there. It is sometimes safer on construction sites if you have a large group to divide into smaller groups and have a chaperone with each group. PPE and reflective vests are required for all jobsites, so ensure all participants have all needed gear. Go over the requirements for PPE with your hosts prior to showing up with your group.
- When planning field trips you want to have an accurate number of participants to tell the host. You will want to let them know about the population you are working with and the goal of your visit. You will want to give the host the list of talking points if they are talking about apprenticeship so that they stay on task and answer all the questions. Come up with a schedule with the host and come up with your timeframes for the talking portion of the visit and if you are doing a hands on activity or tour, make sure it's realistic for the number of people who will be there. Factor in travel time, traffic time, as well a lunch time and breaks throughout the day. Send reminders the week before as well as the day before. Contractors are busy people and the





last thing you want is them to forget about your group. You will find them to be very happy for the reminders. Get a cell phone number the host can be reached at and give them a number you can be reached at on the day of the field trip, in case anything unexpected happens.

- Once on the field trip, it is important to respect the host's time and stick to the agreed upon schedule. To go overtime may be a hardship for the host or the facility you are occupying.
- Before you begin your field trip go over the field trip rules.

