

Speed Mentoring – Evening Activity (Mandatory)

Goal: To expose students to a variety of tradeswomen in specific trades sectors and to allow them to ask questions about anything, with no inhibitions on the part of students or tradeswomen mentors. To build networks with tradeswomen.

Activities:

- Staff selects **6 trades** to be represented on Speed Mentoring night based on student interest or on trades we were not able to see on field trips.
- Staff attempts to get at least two spokeswomen from each trade to sit at a table together.
- Class of **24** students is divided into six small groups of about **4-5** students per group. Each group will sit at a table and learn about each trade for about 15 minutes. Every 15 minutes each group will rotate tables until they have listened to all 6 trades.
- Staff provides a list of “starter” questions for each table to get the conversation rolling and then leaves the rest of the Q & A to staff and mentors.
- Following the 15 minute rotations, all tradeswomen and students convene in the classroom for a free form panel discussion in which students can continue asking questions and women representing multiple trades can respond.
- Mentors are encouraged to bring tools specific to their trade so students can try them on, pick them up, and generally get a feel for the tools the tradeswomen use.

We provide the following instruction to tradeswomen mentors:

“As a tradeswoman, we will want you to describe what your work day is like, what the application process was like for you, and anything else the students want to know about your trade. We will give you some starter questions to make it easier. We will save the final 30 minutes for a panel discussion in which you will be able to give advice to the students as a whole group of tradeswomen.”

Sample starter questions placed at tables:

1. What is your trade and your position? What does your day look like?
2. What’s your least favorite thing about your job?
3. What’s your most favorite thing about your job?

