

Worksite Visits

Objectives

Student will:

- identify regionally in-demand industries
- observe professionals in the workplace
- connect schoolwork to work skills
- gather information about career expectations
- gain understanding of the world of work
- experience a work-based learning opportunity

Using MnPOS

Length: 90 min. class time;
3 hours planning; 2-6 hour field trip

Materials Needed

- Minnesota Programs of Study website: www.mnprogramsofstudy.org
- Connections with businesses or community organizations for students to visit one-on-one or as a group
- Parent permission or consent forms

Instructions

1. Have students research career pathways and occupations related to the type of businesses they will visit.
2. Guide students to identify connections between the skills needed for careers and their school work.
3. Arrange the worksite visit with the employer.
 - Send a letter of understanding to the business prior to the field trip
 - Train chaperones to assist in managing the experience
 - Ask the employer to fit in demonstrations during the tour of some major work projects
 - Ask employers to allow time for employees to explain roles, responsibilities, education, etc.

4. Review your schools field trip procedures, policies and expectations with students.
 - Have students view a company video and/or review company promotional materials prior to the visit.
 - Review examples of the business' products or services.
 - Have students generate a list of questions prior to the visit to ask employers. Use the Reaching Companies worksheet as an example: www.iseek.org/iseek/_mnpos/pdf/Find%20a%20Job/Company-Research-Worksheet.pdf.
 - Discuss with students what to look for at the worksite (i.e.: types of skills required to perform different tasks).
 - Require students to write thank you letters and reflections following the visits.
 - Recognize business partners publicly for their involvement (thank you letters, awards, newsletter articles or framed certificates).

Evaluation of Learning

- Monitor students' awareness of career options.
- Grade student's reflection projects.
- Grade student participant in question-and-answer sessions or discussions with employers.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students participate in the planning of future worksite visits.
- Invite professionals to talk to the class about their careers. Choose speakers with careers related to students' interests.
- Have students do informational interviews with people working in various occupations.
- Use the Minnesota Programs of Study website (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org) to see how school classes connect to career pathways.
- Encourage professionals to act as mentors for students.