

Field of Dreams Career Expo

“Hands-On” Experiences - Example List

All vendors are required to provide a hands-on experience which will demonstrate the careers available in the represented industry. Because our core audience is 7th-12th grade students, we encourage you to be creative, and offer an experience that will engage teenagers!

Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

- Match grains or seeds to the crops they come from
- Identify different types of animal feed or equipment
- Try milking a life-size cow simulator
- Assemble a small irrigation system model
- Set up small, hands-on demonstrations of common farm tools or machinery
- Use cards or a diagram to demonstrate the importance of crop rotation in maintaining soil health and increasing yield
- Use safe fertilizer to demonstrate safe manure management
- Allow “hands-on” experiences with farm machinery, tractors, etc.
- Offer taste tests challenges of local crops or farm-produced items, like honey, cheese, apples, etc.
- Set up trays with different surfaces (bare soil, gravel, grass) and pour water over them to show erosion effects

Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications

- Record a short video or audio clip with professional equipment
- Create a quick logo or design using graphic design software
- Practice reading from a teleprompter or microphone
- Assemble a basic camera or lighting setup for a mock photoshoot
- Ask students to write a quick ad jingle or marketing concept and perform/pitch it

Business Management & Administration

- Have students solve a business problem through a quick team challenge
- Ask students to design a basic organizational chart for a company
- Role-play conducting a job interview
- Brainstorm and pitch a new business idea
- Have students perform a simple business task using Excel or a similar project management software
- Have students take a short quiz to determine leadership styles
- Role-play a customer service scenario where students deal with a “difficult” customer

Construction & Architecture

- Build a small structure with provided materials (i.e., LEGOs, wood blocks, etc.)

- Measure and cut materials based on provided blueprints or specs
- Identify different tools and explain their uses
- Operate a virtual reality construction simulator
- Design a simple floor plan using CAD software
- Wear safety gear and learn about its importance
- Have students draw a basic layout of a room or house
- Have students use craft materials to build a small model of a house or building

Education & Training

- Role-play teaching a mini-lesson to peers
- Play a matching or memory game designed for younger students
- Create a classroom seating chart based on a scenario
- Role-play calming an upset student or solving a classroom problem
- Explore digital tools like online lesson planners or interactive teaching apps
- Have students create a brief lesson plan for teaching something simple (i.e. a math problem)
- Showcase educational tools or toys, allowing students to experiment with them

Energy & Utilities

- Build a small circuit to light up a bulb
- Explore how solar panels work with a mini solar-powered gadget
- Identify safety gear used in the energy industry
- Calculate energy savings with LED vs. incandescent bulbs
- Let students test different types of batteries and learn about energy storage
- Use tubing and connectors to let students create a “pipeline” system that mimics how natural gas is transported
- Show how gas detectors work and let students practice detecting a simulated “leak” using safe methods
- Let students see and handle fiber optic cables while explaining how data travels through light
- Set up a Wi-Fi router and demonstrate how signal strength changes with distance or barriers like walls

Financial Services

- Create a simple budget based on a provided scenario
- Role-play helping a client open a savings account
- Match financial terms to their definitions
- Count and manage a cash drawer in a timed challenge
- Use a mock credit card machine to process transactions
- Practice calculating interest on a loan or savings account

- Teach students about investing by allowing them to “invest” in different companies using fake money
- Ask students to complete a quiz on how credit works and how to improve a credit score
- Demonstrate how taxes are deducted from a paycheck through a mock setup

Government & Public Administration

- Simulate a vote on a policy decision
- Match government agencies to their functions
- Allow “hands-on” with equipment, cars, trucks, etc.
- Draft a mock law or ordinance and present it
- Explore maps and zoning tools used in county planning
- Identify of a courtroom and explain their roles
- Create a small voting station where students can cast ballots on a fun topic
- Set up a station with basic surveying tools and let students practice measuring distances
- Create a mock permit application and let students role-play as citizens and zoning officers completing the process
- Set up a mock trail and provide tools or materials to teach basic trail maintenance
- Set up a small station where students can “patch” a mock pothole with gravel or asphalt
- Create a simple simulation where students can experience what it’s like to plow snow or spread salt on roads
- Provide materials like straws or popsicle sticks for students to build small bridges and test their strengths

Health Sciences

- Practice using a stethoscope or blood pressure cuff
- Learn CPR steps on a dummy or simulator
- Label parts of the human body on an anatomy diagram
- Operate a portable ultrasound or other diagnostic device
- Assemble a basic first aid kit and discuss its uses
- Allow “hands-on” with other medical equipment, trucks, etc.

Hospitality & Tourism

- Design a hotel room
- Craft a travel itinerary for a tour bus company
- Role-play checking a guest into a hotel or solving a customer issue
- Create a small promotional flyer for a local tourist attraction
- Set up a mock ticket booth and teach students how tickets are sold
- Role-play the process for booking talent in a theater venue

- Provide space for students to sing with microphones, instruments, speakers, and other equipment
- Teach students basic auctioneer techniques, such as calling bids, and let them try mock auctions with fun items

Human Services

- Practice active listening with a role-playing scenario
- Explore tools used in therapy or counseling, such as emotion charts
- Teach students how flowers are selected and arranged for memorial services
- Walk students through creating a mock outline for a memorial service or obituary
- Teach how churches and nonprofits attract and manage volunteers for their activities
- Provide mannequin heads for students to practice hair braiding, curling, or styling
- Show students how to apply basic makeup
- Teach students simple nail-painting or nail art techniques
- Teach how to match hair or makeup colors to different skin tones
- Teach students how nonprofits organize donation drives and let them brainstorm ideas
- Provide maps and scenarios for students to identify community needs and brainstorm solutions

IT (Information Technology)

- Code a small program using beginner-friendly software
- Take apart and reassemble basic computer components
- Explore cybersecurity concepts with a password challenge
- Experiment with AR or VR technology
- Set up a small network with routers and cables
- Solve a troubleshooting challenge for a device or software
- Identify different types of coding languages and their uses

Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security

- Solve a mock crime scene with provided clues
- Practice giving clear directions in an emergency scenario
- Learn basic self-defense moves or safety techniques
- Explore tools used in forensics, like fingerprint kits
- Practice using a fire extinguisher
- Role-play a courtroom scenario, like being a lawyer or judge
- Allow “hands-on” with equipment, cars, trucks, etc.

Manufacturing

- Operate a manufacturing simulator or small robotic arm
- Assemble a product from pre-cut parts
- Explore how 3D printing works with a small demo

- Practice quality control by identifying errors in a product
- Match tools or machines to their functions
- Create a small assembly line with peers to complete a task
- Offer materials for students to try their hand at simple crafts like woodworking, candle-making, or basket weaving

Retail, Sales, & Marketing

- Role-play selling an item to a customer
- Design a quick marketing poster or ad for a product
- Arrange items in an attractive display
- Practice handling money and making change
- Explore how royalty programs work by creating a mock plan
- Challenge students to create and deliver a 1-minute sales pitch for a product
- Let students roleplay making a short sales call, pitching a product or service to a “client”
- Use a visual funnel to teach how leads are generated, nurtured, and closed in the sales process

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

- Conduct a mini science experiment (i.e. testing PH, building circuits)
- Solve an engineering problem with provided materials
- Use microscopes to explore cells or small objects
- Explore chemical reactions with safe materials like baking soda and vinegar
- Test water quality with a kit
- Design and test a paper airplane for distance and accuracy

Transportation, Logistics, & Distribution

- Plan a delivery route on a map using set constraints
- Explore tools or technology used in logistics, like GPS
- Practice loading a small vehicle or container efficiently
- Simulate tracking a package from start to finish
- Practice sanitizing a public transportation vehicle
- Explore how supply chains work with a simple diagram activity