
4-H CAREER EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Name that Career

About This Activity

Age:

Ages 14 to 19

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Learn about effective communication.
- Learn how to ask good questions.
- Be able to identify careers.

Learning and Life Skills:

- Communicating
- Gathering information
- Working in teams
- Thinking creatively

Michigan Curriculum Framework:

The following Michigan benchmarks are addressed in this curriculum. More information can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MichiganCurriculumFramework_8172_7.pdf

- Thinks analytically and creatively about important themes, concepts and ideas
- Uses methods of social science investigation to answer questions about society (inquiry)

What You Will Need

Materials:

- Sticky label sheets (Avery 5095 name badge) with career names listed on them (if not on sticky labels, provide tape)

Time:

10 to 20 minutes

Setting:

Participants will be standing and moving around. Location can be anywhere as long as there is room to move.

Procedure

Before the Meeting:

Download and print career labels or print on plain paper and cut out.

During the Meeting:

You will need a group of at least four teens to play. To begin, place one of the career labels on the back of each participant. The participant must not see the label that is put on his or her back. Once everyone has a career, give them the following information:

- The object is to correctly identify the career name that's been placed on your back.
- Move around from person to person and ask just one "yes" or "no" question of each other. (This method takes longer.)
- **A shorter option** is to provide participants (typed list or posted where everyone can see them) with specific questions they can ask that go beyond a "yes" or "no" answer, here are a few:
 - Is this occupation done mainly indoors or outdoors?
 - Is this career technical, medical or business orientated?
 - Does this job mainly focus on tools and equipment, information, animals, environment or people?
 - Does this occupation require high school, associate, bachelors, masters or Ph.D. education?
 - Do you mainly work by yourself or with other co-workers in this position?
 - Does this job require good writing skills, computer knowledge, creativity, mathematical ability or public speaking?
 - Does this job require a lot of traveling?

Try This, Too:

If it's a small group you could have them go one at a time in front of the rest of the group, turning around to show the career path before starting the questions. Another option to try would be to play it like charades with the person up front knowing the career path and the rest of the group guessing. (Career names would be passed out instead of being placed on their backs.)

If you have computer Internet access in the room, you could go to some of the Web sites listed in the Michigan 4-H Pathways to Career Education Resource List and talk more about exploring careers.

If you have access to career exploration books like *Best Jobs for the 21st Century* by Michael Farr (available at www.jist.com), give participants time to look them over and talk about how they can tap in to their school or library career resource materials.

Ask if anyone has taken any career assessment tools, such as Holland Self-Directed Search (<http://www.self-directed-search.com/>) or Discover (<http://www.act.org/discover/index.html>). If anyone has and are willing to talk about the results, that's great, if not, refer them to the career exploration options we have listed on the Web and in our resource list. Encourage youth to participate in career assessment and exploration opportunities offered by their schools or in their communities.

Talking It Over:

- What careers were hard to describe?
- How will this activity help you in the future (personally and when researching careers)?
- Did partnering up make the questioning easier or harder?
- What were some of the questions you asked to discover what your career was?
- What are some other careers that you can think of that might not have been used today?
- Pick a career. How would you accomplish that career? (High school, college, technical school or other means of accomplishing the career)

For More Information

To explore other Michigan 4-H Youth Development career development information, visit <http://4h.msue.msu.edu>. Click on the "Programs" tab then select "Careers."