

Engineering and Technology Careers Exploring



What Is Exploring?

Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) or 15 to 20 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or citizenship is not criteria for participation.



Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Explorers are ready to investigate the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and communities.

Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Local community organizations initiate an Exploring post by matching their employees and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.

Everyone Wins With Exploring

Exploring will be one of the best opportunities you offer your company, your employees, and the youth of your community.

Company Benefits

- Impact on the education process of youth
- Team-building attitude within the company
- Opportunity to interpret adult occupational roles for youth
- Preparing young adults for transition from school to work
- Creating a "safe haven" for the healthy development of adolescents
- Developing future responsible and caring adults

- Ensuring that young people see how your business relates to the free-enterprise system
- Helping young adults gain insight into the ethics and ideals of business
- Visible commitment to the welfare of your community

Employee Benefits

- Greater job awareness
- Developing leadership and problem-solving skills
- Re-evaluating ethical and moral values
- Opportunity for greater community involvement
- Respect from youth and community
- Identification as appropriate adult role models
- Enhancing communication, planning, and program development skills
- Greater commitment to service
- Developing interpersonal skills used in the workplace and elsewhere

Youth Benefits

- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Career information; insight into future vocation
- Positive alternative to negative youth activities, such as drug abuse and involvement with gangs
- Sense of acceptance and belonging to the "right" group
- Safe environment for adultlike activities
- Opportunities to participate in practical, real, and meaningful hands-on experiences
- New career and personal skills
- Opportunities to try leadership roles and develop skills
- Cooperative relationship between adults and youth
- Service to others



Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring



Engineering and technology professionals apply the principles of science and mathematics to develop economical solutions to technical problems. Their work is the link between scientific discoveries and the commercial applications that meet societal and consumer needs.

The Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring program's primary goal is to expose youths ages 14 to 20 to the multidimensional aspects of

and the varied occupations in engineering and technology. Begun in 1972, Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring is a nationwide program for male and female students interested in pursuing an engineering or technology career. Learning for Life conducts the Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring program, along with other career-related and character-development programs.

Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring helps youth explore career fields, assists in their character development, and helps them develop social and life skills. Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring is an action-learning program. By providing hands-on, work-related activities to students, members of the engineering and technology professions and organizations help youths explore the skills, intricacies, demands, and needs of various engineering and technology careers.



Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring Increases Workforce Pipeline

Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring is uniquely positioned to help increase the pipeline of workers in engineering and technology. Youth participants in Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring work with employees in engineering and technology-related organizations to explore and learn about the wide array of careers in these fields.

Twice a month throughout the year, youth meet with employees at the work site to get hands-on experience and exposure in a particular engineering/technology career. Program activities in Engineering/Technology Careers Exploring are planned and executed by employees of the organization/institution and the youth participants involved in the program.

Exploring's Five Areas of Emphasis

Career Opportunities

- Developing potential contacts that may broaden employment options
- Boosting self-confidence and experiencing success at school and work

Citizenship

- Encouraging the skill and desire to help others
- Gaining a keen respect for the basic rights of others

Leadership Experience

- Developing leadership skills to fulfill our responsibilities in society
- Providing exposure to different leadership traits

Life Skills

- Developing physical and mental fitness
- Experiencing positive social interaction

Character Education

- Helping make ethical choices
- Fulfilling one's responsibility to society as a whole

The Exploring Experience: Research Study

A study of program outcomes, conducted by Harris Interactive, shows that Exploring has a significant impact on the lives of young people by

- Providing elements of healthy youth development
- Teaching strong personal value and character
- Encouraging ethical decision making
- Providing them with a positive sense of self-worth
- Preparing them for the future
- Building confidence
- Providing caring and nurturing relationships with parents, other adults, and peers
- Creating a desire to learn
- Teaching productive/creative use of time
- Teaching social adeptness

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Learning for Life to enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential.



“There’s a growing shortage of engineers in our country. Learning for Life deals with young people at about the age when a decision has to be made to at least consider being an engineer. Learning for Life can help by [showing] them what engineers do.”

*Norm Augustine, former CEO
Lockheed Martin*



“Exploring can help provide resources and places where young people can get together to work on engineering projects, to learn about engineering, and to meet engineers who have contributed to all facets of our society.”

*Dr. Albert Gray, CEO and executive director
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools*



“Competitors [of the U.S.] are graduating large numbers of engineers, and if they’re the ones developing new products . . . and coming up with new innovations, then that means they will lead the global economy.”

*Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, director
NASA Glenn Research Center*



“We need to help young people understand, at an early age, what it takes to enter an engineering field and all the different opportunities that are available.”

*Ann Randazzo, executive director
Center for Energy Workforce Development*



“The Exploring program pulls [students] out of their schools, pulls them out of their homes, and brings them to an office area or business area that has engineering going on. The students get to see engineering in a whole different venue.”

Robert Ekman, software engineer



“Exploring can connect the young people with the industries where opportunities exist. My particular organization is all about education in technology and engineering. I think this is a terrific opportunity for us and Exploring to work together.”

*Dr. William E. Kelly, manager, public affairs
American Society for Engineering Education*

LEARNING FOR LIFE

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SKU 800993



7 30176 30789 3
800-993 2010 Printing