

Pair Event: Career Exploration

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Mentees will learn about mentors’ career pathways.
Pairs will brainstorm steps the mentee can take to explore their career interests.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

This event is focused on exposing mentees to different career pathways. It will also allow time for the mentees to reflect on how they want to explore their own career interests and the ways that their mentor can support them in doing so.

EVENT PREP

Set up a check-in table with event packets, pens/pencils, name badges, seating assignments and check in documents.

Post a few copies of the seating assignments on the walls. Make sure to use a large font!

MATERIALS:

Career Exploration Event Packet

AGENDA (90 min event/20 min huddle)

5 min	Welcome
25 min	Chat and Chew: <i>Career Aspirations</i>
40 min	<i>Mentor Career Interviews</i>
10 min	<i>Pursuing My Career Interests</i>
10 min	<i>Close Out</i>
20 min	Mentor Huddle: <i>Getting Ready For Pair Expeditions</i>

ACTIVITY:	NOTES:
Welcome and Intro (5 min)	<p>ENGAGEMENT: The facilitator will welcome pairs and review the event agenda.</p> <p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, everyone! • <i>Go over agenda:</i> Tonight, we have a fun event in store for you. As you can see on your agendas, while we eat, we will have a conversation about career aspirations. • Then, you will get a chance to interview mentors about their career pathways. • Finally, we will think through steps that mentees can take to explore their career interests. <p><i>Let pairs know what time they will be dismissed from the event. Share any housekeeping logistics (where the restrooms are, how to get your attention during the event if they need it, (re)introduce other school and event staff in the room, etc). If the event is virtual, review how to access break out rooms.</i></p>
Chat and Chew: Career Aspirations (25 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a minute, you will be able to go grab dinner. • Once you have done so, please work through the career aspiration questions in the packet. You will have 20 minutes to talk through the questions. <p>COHORT WIDE DEBRIEF (last 5 min of activity) <i>Bring the cohort back together</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have there been any changes in your career aspirations over time? • If so, what has caused you to change your career aspirations?
Mentor Career Interviews (40 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS: In this next activity, you will interview mentors about their career. This is like some of the conversations you have had with your mentor online and will give you an opportunity to learn even more about different careers.</p> <p>Students commonly change their majors in college, and it is also common for adults to change career paths. A reason for these changes is that many people are not exposed to a variety of careers, so they may go into only what they have seen or been exposed to in their life so far. Luckily, you have a variety of</p>

	<p>knowledge and experiences right here in this room that you will be able to learn from.</p> <p>You are going to tap into an amazing resource today through these conversations.</p> <p>DIRECTIONS: Each pair will get up to find another pair. First, mentees will interview their own mentor using the questions on the chart. The mentee will write down notes to be able to reference later. Then, mentees will switch mentors within their group. I will keep time and will let you know when to switch. You will have about 12 minutes for each interview.</p> <p>COHORT WIDE DEBRIEF: (last 4 min of activity) Bring the cohort back together for the debrief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is one interesting piece of information that you learned? • Is any mentee now considering one of the careers they learned about? If so, why?
Pursuing My Career Interests (10 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now that we have discussed the mentors' careers, it is time for the mentees to start planning their own career pathways. • As we mentioned earlier tonight, it is common for people to realize that a career pathway that they chose isn't the best fit for them. • Exploring career pathways while you are still in high school is a great way to see which careers could be a strong fit for you. • With your mentor, work on creating a plan for exploring career paths of interest.
Close Out (10 Min)	<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the date of the next event. • Remind pairs to continue their weekly communication. • Express gratitude and appreciation for their dedication to the program. • Share any school-specific context and updates.

Mentor Huddle: Getting Ready for PEs	
Activity/Topic	Notes
Ice Breaker (6 min)	<p>ENGAGEMENT: Mentors will engage in a community building icebreaker.</p> <p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you so much for joining our event this evening. • We are going to start off by getting into groups of 4. Within your groups, share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What's one new thing you learned today about your mentee? - How can you support your mentee to explore and pursue their career interests? <p><i>Bring the whole group back after a few minutes and ask for people to share out</i></p>
Getting Ready for PEs (9 min)	<p>ENGAGEMENT: Mentors will review the concept of pair expeditions. They will brainstorm PE activities. Note – if you have recently matched pairs, you might want to strategize with your manager on how to introduce PEs.</p> <p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for sharing out your thoughts. I am excited to see how your career exploration goes with your mentees! • We are going to shift our focus for the second half of this huddle to pair expeditions. • Research shows that pair meetings are the most effective way to grow your relationship with your mentee. • Mentees must bring in a signed permission form from their guardians that I will process before any pair expeditions can occur. • Once you are PE approved, you and your mentee will be able to submit meeting requests to me. • There are a few rules regarding what type of activities can take place. • Review your regional Pair Expedition rules and requirements. • In your small groups, please take the next few minutes to brainstorm potential pair expedition ideas. <p><i>Bring the whole group back after a few minutes and ask for people to share out</i></p>
Announcements/Closing (5 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share any important program updates. • Thank mentors for attending the event. • Remind mentors that they can always reach out for support.