

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

FOR THE TEACHER:

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- understand the benefits of participating in Experiential Learning Activities (ELAs)
- investigate various ELAs in their community
- learn to develop and set goals to prepare them for potential ELAs

Setting The Stage

Ask students to suggest ways to find out if a career that they're interested in is right for them. Identify Experiential Learning suggestions (e.g. job shadowing, internships, etc.) as they're given, and encourage students to come up with more examples of ELAs. Ask students to develop, in groups or individually, a list of other benefits to participating in ELAs. Answers may include: making valuable work connections (networking), finding community mentors, seeing firsthand how subjects they're learning in school translate to the workplace, developing workplace and interpersonal skills, earning academic credit, earning money for college, learning more about job requirements and training, and developing self-esteem and confidence in their contributions as workers.

You can help prepare students for participating in Experiential Learning by encouraging them to assess their own interests, skills, learning styles, and abilities using Career Cruising's assessment tools. Emphasize how knowing their interests will help them identify and choose an ELA that reflects their personal likes; how knowing their strengths and weaknesses will help them set goals for the skills and abilities they want to either use or improve during the ELA; and how knowing their learning style can help them understand the relationship between how they learn and success during the ELA.

Extension Activity

Students who request and complete an ELA can maintain a reflective journal that outlines the goals they hope to accomplish by participating in the ELA and chronicles their experiences, learning, successes, and problems throughout the ELA. You can use the My Journal feature of Career Cruising, an ELAs blog, or any other journaling format that appeals to you and your students.

Starting The Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your plan username and password in the spaces provided, and clicks on Log In. If you do not have a personal Plan account – Login with your school/site's username and password **and** create a personal Plan.

WORKSHEET: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Click on the **Inspire Madison Region** tab in the menu bar at the top of the page and select the **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES** link. Click on **SEARCH BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY** and select an opportunity type that interests you.

1. Read through the list of Experiential Learning Activities (ELAs) available at companies in your area. Click on one provided by a company that interests you and answer the following questions:

What is the name and/or type of the Experiential Learning Activity?

What is the name of the company that provides the ELA?

In what city (or cities) is the ELA available?

2. **Learn more about the company offering the Experiential Learning Activity.** Click on the name of the company providing the ELA that interests you. Explore the company profile, including the Who We Hire section, and answer the following questions:

What does this company do?

What career clusters does this company hire people in?

What careers does this company hire people in?

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If you were to participate in this ELA, which career offered at this company would you like to learn more about and what would you like to learn about that career? (e.g. *mechanical engineer – Do mechanical engineers at this company need special training in robotics?*)

3. Learn more about the Experiential Learning Activities offered at this company. Click on the **Opportunities** tab in the menu on the left side of the page.

What other ELAs are available at this company?

What other ELAs interest you? Why?

4. Click on the ELA that you wrote down in Question # 1.

Describe this type of ELA. What's it about?

What interests you about this ELA?

WORKSHEET: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

What skills or abilities would you like to learn more about, acquire, or use during this ELA? (e.g. *budgeting skills, communication skills, teamwork*)

What school subjects or other knowledge would you be able to use during this ELA? (e.g. *science, Spanish, knowledge of bicycle maintenance*)

What workplace behavior or personal characteristics would you like to acquire, practice, or improve during this ELA? (e.g. *time management, adaptability, stress management*)

What else would you like to learn or accomplish by participating in this ELA?

Summary – Your Views

What else would you like to know about this ELA before deciding whether or not to apply?

WORKSHEET: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

How can you find out the answers to your questions?

Are you interested in applying for this ELA? Why or why not?

If you are interested in this Experiential Learning Activity, click on the MAKE A REQUEST button to send a request to the ELA administrator at your school. Your school administrator will follow up with you about your request, and if it is approved, he or she will contact the company and make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.