

## Volunteer Instructions:



# CAREER PATHS Activity

**Setup:** Place the 16 “Career Information Sheets/Career Paths” around the room. Note: Students will be looking at these to determine job interests. Allow enough space between the sheets so that the students are not crowded.

**Goal:** To give the students an awareness of the 16 career clusters and discover what cluster may suit them based on their career interest survey results. Then, discover the different careers paths within that cluster that might be of interest to them.

**Introduce yourself and briefly share your career/education background.**

**Opening Comments:** Tell the students in this activity they will explore career options. Today’s activity will describe 16 different career categories. These categories will help you think about which ones might be interesting to you. These categories are called **Career Clusters**. Career Clusters are groups of jobs and industries that are related by the knowledge and skills they require.

Refer to the career cluster chart and briefly review it with the students. Explain that each cluster includes multiple jobs and careers. Describe how your personal job, past or present, fits within a specific career cluster.

Even if you haven’t given much thought to careers, you probably have been asked; what do you want to be when you grow up?

Inform students that they will be completing a career interest survey to match their interests with potential careers. Completing the career interest survey will help kick start their thoughts about the direction they may like to head with their future career plans.

### Activity 1- When I grow up....

#### STEPS:

- Hand out the career interest survey to each student or have them pull up the downloaded document on their device. Ask them to complete it.
- Indicate that each numbered box represents a different career cluster.
- Give the students the directions first and then have them work at their own pace.

- Directions to the students-
  - Starting with box #1, read each statement and check off the activities that interest you.
  - Add the total number of check marks in the box.
  - Place the total number on the “Total checks” line.
  - Move on to Box #2 and do the same thing.
  - After completing all 16 boxes transfer the number of check marks in each numbered box to the corresponding number on the career interest results sheet (note: the boxes are color coded to match each corresponding number and career cluster).
- What was your top area of interest? Fill in the information on the sheet.

## **Activity 2 – Career Information Sheets; Determining a Potential Career**

After answering the questions on the career interest survey and transferring the number of checkmarks to the “Career Interest Results,” this should have revealed what clusters may be best suited to the students.

Explain, to find a personal career path, it’s important to break larger categories or career clusters into specific jobs. You may want to work with animals, but would you rather be a veterinarian, a medical researcher, a zookeeper or a dog groomer?

Hold up one of the career information sheets that you have placed around the room. Explain that there are 16 information sheets throughout the room. Each one is color coded to match the career cluster category on their interest survey. i.e. if their top interest was box #14, marketing, pink, then the information sheet will have a pink banner at the top. Have each student locate a career information sheet for one of their top career clusters and read through the various careers. At the bottom of their Career Interest Results paper, answer the questions: What is your top Career Cluster? What is the career that interests you? Describe the career. What level of education will you need?

**Discussion:** Who had an idea of what they wanted to do before doing the survey? Did the survey match those interests? What were some of the career options that you saw? What level of education did they require? Did the survey help give you an idea of your career cluster? Did the survey help you think about a potential future career?

## **End of Day Clean-Up Checklist – Place the following back in the bin:**

- **Career Cluster chart (1)**
- **Career Information Sheets (16)**
- **Magnets (16)**
- **Clips and tape**
- **Volunteer Instructions Folder**
  - **Career Cluster Chart**
  - **Recap Question Card (1)**
  - **Finale Question Card (1)**
  
- **Thank the teacher for allowing JA in their classroom today.**
- **Return Bin to JA staff in hospitality area.**

**Smile. You made a difference today!**

Revised July 2023