



New to youth volunteer work?

Volunteer Tips

For some students, deciding their future can be overwhelming – Construct Tomorrow events shouldn't be. While our objective is creating awareness of apprenticeship training and careers in the building trades, our primary goal is connecting with students. As a Construct Tomorrow volunteer, you play an integral role in making this a meaningful experience.

Be informative.

Just like all the adults in the room, students want to be aware – and they should be. Your job is to help provide an understanding of what the event is about – the student and their future.

Some key messages are:

- The event provides career training options for anyone 18 and up with a high school diploma and access to a car.
- These exciting career opportunities are for people who are active, hardworking, and want alternatives to college.
- The average starting wage is \$16 per hour!
- You can avoid college debt while having a great career with incredible benefits.

Lead by example.

Although the students are young, they don't want to be treated like children. A Construct Tomorrow event may help shape a future and guide career plans. That's huge! Be interested in the students. Ask questions about what they like to do. When necessary, correct behaviors that are not positive by redirecting attention (Hey, let's go over there and see what the Iron Workers are doing). Reinforce positive behavior with acknowledgement. Ask for their ideas and comments.

Be engaging.

For many young people, it's all about the now. And as some students may have short attention spans, it's important to watch for non-verbal cues indicating boredom or disinterest (e.g. shrugging shoulders, gloomy tones). Guiding them in friendly competitions, such as challenging them to fill their passports or being first to complete an activity, can be a great motivator.

Keep an open mind.

It is important, not just at Construct Tomorrow events but in life, to not make assumptions based on appearances. There are hands-on learners of all kinds. Avoid making snap judgements and favoring some students over others. Have fun. If you're enjoying yourself, students will catch your mood. Encourage them to participate and share their new experiences with friends not in attendance by making Construct Tomorrow part of their social media.