

Construction

Montgomery County Department of Economic & Workforce Development

Overview

Learn about the growing and rewarding industry of construction in this episode of Career Gates. Hear from employees of H&K Group, Corrado & Sons, Inc., and Allan A. Myers construction companies as they share their insight about this exciting and hands-on industry.

Discussion/Questions

1. Construction is a hands-on industry. It involves a lot of attention to detail, precision and a dedication to quality. Explain why each of these are important to becoming successful in this industry. Why is quality so important in the construction business?
2. As demonstrated in this segment, construction is about teamwork and a good work ethic. What are some key components to working efficiently as a team? Explain the importance of clear communication and dependability on a job site.
3. There are so many different careers available in construction that include options in the field and in the office. Create a list of the different careers mentioned in this segment. Which seemed to be the most appealing to you? What aspects of them attracted you the most?

Activities

1. Technology is becoming more of a valuable and necessary tool in construction each day. Discover what different ways technology is used in this field. What different job positions work the most with technology? What types of training or courses are required in order to prepare oneself for a career using this type of technology within the construction industry?
2. Construction involves the use of various machines and equipment on a daily basis. It is very important that people are properly trained to ensure safety and efficiency when using these types of tools. Interview an employee in the field of construction in which you have an interest. Ask them what types of training they underwent to prepare themselves for their trade. Did they receive this training in advance or once they got hired? What aspects of their job do they like the most? Which aspects are the most trying? What advice would they give to someone in high school eager to enter this field?
3. Get a head start to find out if construction is the career for you. Contact a local company and find out if they have job shadowing programs available in the area of construction in which you are interested. Get involved and keep a detailed journal of your experience. Be sure to pay attention not only to the work itself but the interactions among employees as well. How do they communicate to get the job done well? What types of characteristics do you see the employees exhibiting? After shadowing someone, look further into this career. Determine the salary, prerequisites required to enter this field in terms of education and training, and the demand for this particular job in your area. Share your experiences with your classmates, as well as the additional information you researched.

Academic Standards

13.1.11.A. Relate careers to individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes

13.2.11.E. Demonstrate, in the career acquisition process, the application of essential workplace skills/knowledge, such as, but not limited to: Commitment, Communication, Dependability, Health/safety, Laws and regulations (that is Americans With Disabilities Act, child labor laws, Fair Labor Standards Act, OSHA, Material Safety Data Sheets), Personal initiative, Self-advocacy, Scheduling/time management, Team building, Technical literacy, Technology

13.2.11.B. Apply research skills in searching for a job.

CareerLinks, Internet (i.e. O*NET), Networking, Newspapers, Professional associations, Resource books (that is *Occupational Outlook Handbook, PA Career Guide*)

13.1.11.F. Analyze the relationship between career choices and career preparation opportunities, such as, but not limited to: Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, Certificate/licensure, Entrepreneurship, Immediate part/full time employment, Industry training, Military training, Professional degree, Registered apprenticeship, Tech Prep

13.1.11.D. Evaluate school-based opportunities for career awareness/preparation, such as, but not limited to: Community service, Graduation/senior project, Internship, Job shadowing, Part-time employment, Registered apprenticeship

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