JFF AND POSSIBLE FUTURES

JFF is a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems. For over 35 years, Jobs For the Future (JFF) has led the way in designing and scaling innovative solutions that create access to economic advancement for all.

Students need access to quality information to make informed decisions about their future—particularly in the face of accelerated change in the workforce. Possible Futures was designed as a customizable career exploration program for students in grades 6 through 10 to help prepare young people to make meaningful decisions about their future and develop skills that will help them achieve their goals.

The full range of Possible Futures curriculum helps students develop essential 21st century skills while exploring STEM occupations and learning how to positively contribute to their communities. Possible Futures compliments and enriches summer learning by:

1. expanding career awareness through authentic experiential learning opportunities;
2. encouraging students to explore their diverse interests, talents, and options;
3. enlivening STEM subjects by bringing in real-world and career contexts;
4. empowering students to develop the vital skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, self-direction, and persistence; and
5. engaging students in making informed choices about future aspirations.

EMPHASIZING SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Designed for 6th through 10th grade students, OregonASK has customized this Possible Futures introductory series to help students set the stage for the career connected exploration and discovery to come. Students can chart a path to future success by building on 21st century skills such as collaboration and communication and identifying personal interests and strengths that can help inform and guide them on their path ahead. The lessons come from an interrelated collection of research-based lessons that prepare youth to gain essential 21st century skills and equips them to chart a path toward success. Key components of the lessons include identifying personal interests and strengths, researching various colleges and careers, and considering potential ways to contribute as youth explore their role in the world. Each lesson can be done in 45-60 minutes.

Communicating and Collaborating
- What is Communication?
- Building Meaning Together
- Body Language
- Listening to Understand
- Communication Skills that Pay the Bills
- Operation Collaboration
- Imperfect Partners
- Additive and Subtractive Behaviors
- Scare Model: What SCAREs Your Brain?
- Collaboration Across Cultures
- The Win-Win Approach
- The Power of Feedback

Growing MySelf with Possible Futures
- Celebrating Failure: How Is Failure Part of Success?
- Luck, Hard Work, and Help: Was It Luck or Opportunity?
- The Power of Yet: How Can We Shift Our Inner Voices?
- Change Your Words, Change Your Mindset
- An Us Identity, A-Z
- Dichos That Shape Us
- The Many Cultures of Me
- Know Your Spark
- Personal Identify: The Me I Choose
- The Masks We Wear
- Where I’m From... Where I’m Going
- Six-Word Statement: What Can Six Words Reveal About Me?
As part of the Possible Futures curriculum, strategically placed career connection opportunities are embedded to increase awareness as youth discuss and discover the plethora of job possibilities. General resources are included to help facilitate conversation with youth as related to the lessons, but additional work is being done to help identify local connections. OregonASK will be working with post-secondary institutions and workforce investment boards to incorporate special resources and reference to regional programs that may help build a visible (achievable) pathway for youth to pursue. Connection opportunities may include virtual tours, phone interviews, and community service projects coordinated with regional and local partners.

Once youth have made it through the introductory series, programs are able to select from any of the content specific units included within STEMploration. STEMploration units are designed to let youth explore the roles of STEM professionals using knowledge, collaboration, and innovation skills to complete challenges based on relevant, real-world problems. Each of the units includes 10-24 lessons that lead youth through challenges and allow them to apply the skills and knowledge they’ve been learning. Each unit includes several specific lessons that center on career awareness, whether through individual research or connecting to real industry professionals.

Programs can select from any of the topics below to provide a full 20+ unit exploration or a mini-pack with 10 lessons packed full of hands-on projects and community connection opportunities. These STEMploration units should be done in connection with regional CTE Coordinators, community colleges, workforce investment boards, or other career connected efforts. If you are not already partnering to know which unit you should select or specific content experts related to a topic of most interest to youth, please reach out.

 STEMploration Units:
- Health Sciences
- Engineering and Design
- Cybersecurity
- Information Technology (IT)

OregonASK is committed to an Oregon where children, youth, and families have access to high quality, affordable afterschool and summer opportunities within their community that incorporate youth development principles; improve academic achievement and social emotional and physical development; and minimize risky behaviors, thus leading to positive youth outcomes.

INCORPORATING CAREER CONNECTIONS

CONTACT
Email: general@oregonask.org
Phone: 503-878-1166
Website: https://oregonask.org/

https://www.youtube.com/user/OregonASK
https://www.facebook.com/OregonASK/