

**NORTH FLORIDA**

**WOW**

**WORLDS OF WORK™**

**TEACHER GUIDE**

# WELCOME

**North Florida Worlds of Work (WOW)** is an interactive career expo designed for ninth grade students from Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, and Liberty counties—including private and homeschool students.

Held at Tallahassee State College and Lively Technical College, WOW ensures that every participating student sets foot on a college campus, making future visits feel more familiar and less intimidating.

WOW introduces students to a wide range of career options and pathways they may not have encountered before. It also fosters early connections between students, educators, and local employers—laying the foundation for long-term partnerships between schools and industry. The insights gained at WOW will help students make informed decisions as they begin planning their high school coursework and future careers.

The worlds included in WOW:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Business & Technology
- Construction
- Education & Training
- Energy & Utilities
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Hospitality & Personal Services
- Manufacturing, Automotive, Logistics & Transportation
- Public Safety

## About North Florida Worlds of Work

North Florida Worlds of Work is a collaborative initiative led by the Talent Development Council, which includes CareerSource Capital Region, the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Leon County Schools, Lively Technical College, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality, Tallahassee State College, and The Able Trust. Together, we are committed to helping students discover meaningful, high-wage career paths early in life.

WOW showcases in-demand careers available right here in our region, ranging from entry-level positions to those requiring advanced degrees.

This guide includes resources and a lesson plan to help your students make the most of their WOW experience. Remember, Worlds of Work is not just a one-day field trip. It is the capstone event of a broader work-based learning journey designed to give students a head start in their future careers.

And it's not just students who benefit. **You** do, too! More than 500 local employers, postsecondary educators, and workforce professionals are on-site to connect with students and teachers. Take advantage of this opportunity: ask questions, make introductions, and thank these partners for investing in your students' futures.

We look forward to seeing you in October at WOW 2026!

# WORLDS OF WORK LOGISTICS

## **Arrival at WOW**

Upon arrival, a volunteer will board your bus to greet students and teachers, provide instructions, and distribute backpacks. For everyone's safety, please remain on the bus until a volunteer instructs you to exit. Backpacks and personal items should be left at school, as items may not be left on the bus. Please note: the bus that brings students to WOW may not be the same one that returns them to school.

## **Student Rotation**

Each student will receive a backpack to wear while at WOW. The color of the backpack determines their group and starting point. After exiting the bus, tour guides and wranglers will be waiting with color-coded signs to lead each group. Students must wear their backpack and stay with their assigned group at all times. Teachers, chaperones, and counselors are also required to remain with their students. Volunteer tour guides will lead students through the event.

## **Event Layout and Flow**

The eleven worlds are grouped into four zones, each containing 2–3 worlds. Students will spend 30 minutes in each zone. They may explore freely within each zone, but will only move on when the signal is given and all students are accounted for. Please help ensure your students stay with their group. Volunteers will be on hand to assist.

## **Electronic Devices**

Students are asked not to use electronic devices, including phones and earbuds, during WOW. Employers are volunteering their time to engage with students, and we ask that students show respect by being attentive and present.

## **Volunteers**

WOW volunteers will be wearing official lime green WOW VOLUNTEER shirts. They are here to assist students and employers and to keep everyone safe. Don't hesitate to reach out to them if you need anything. Contact numbers for event leaders are listed at the back of this guide.

## **Photography, Video, and Media**

Teachers may take photos of their students unless restricted by your school or district policy. We encourage you to share your experience using #northfloridawow on social media.

## **Please Communicate with Students Ahead of Event**

WOW is an outdoor event, and October weather can be warm. Please remind students to dress appropriately and bring a reusable water bottle if they'd like water during the two-hour event.

# TEACHER AND COUNSELOR ROLE

We recommend presenting the information in this guide to students 1–2 weeks before attending WOW. The accompanying lesson plan is also available on ClassLink and can be used as a stand-alone activity or integrated into your existing curriculum.

## **Pre-Event Activities**

- Students will begin by completing the WOW Pre-Survey in the Xello platform. The Xello tile can be found in ClassLink.
- Next, students will complete the Matchmaker interest inventory in Xello. This interactive assessment helps students discover potential career matches based on their interests.
- Students can further explore careers, industries, and work-based learning opportunities in Xello under the Explore Options menu.
- Using the WOW Book, students will complete a WOW Scavenger Hunt to familiarize themselves with the ten worlds before the event. The WOW Scavenger Hunt can be found in Xello on the student's main dashboard.

Please emphasize to students that they will need to use their time wisely at WOW. They should prioritize visiting the worlds and activities that interest them most, as time may not allow them to explore every exhibit.

## **Post-Event Activity**

- After the event, please have students complete the WOW Post-Survey. This feedback helps organizers improve the experience for future participants.

# LESSON PLAN :

**Overview/Annotation:** In this lesson, students will experience eighteen career pathways through hands-on activities presented by industry partners.

**Essential Question(s):**

- What is the purpose of the North Florida Worlds of Work (WOW) event?
- What careers are available in my region within the worlds of Agriculture & natural Resources, Business & Technology, Construction, Education & Training, Energy & Utilities, Engineering, Healthcare, Hospitality & Personal Services, Manufacturing, Automotive & Logistics, and Public Safety?
- What careers are most interesting to me?
- How does WOW connect to my 4-Year Plan?

**Learning Objective(s):** The students will:

- Identify how their individual interests align with potential careers in the region.
- Explain the role of math, science, communication, and interpersonal skills in various occupations.
- Discuss how career path decisions in high school can influence future life opportunities.
- Establish a rationale for choosing educational pathways for secondary, post-secondary, and lifelong learning.
- Identify and discuss high-demand, high-wage occupations in North Florida.
- Explore further training opportunities and desired careers through their school's CTE and dual enrollment programs.

**Conceptual Outline:**

1. Prepare for WOW
  - Complete pre-survey in Xello
  - Review event overview
  - Explore each world
2. Career Expo
  - October 22-23, 2026
  - Location: Lively Technical College & Tallahassee State College
  - Follow student instructions
3. Follow up on WOW Experience
  - Participate in class discussion
  - Network with exhibitors
  - Complete post-survey in Xello

**Materials, Equipment, and Technology Resources:**

Materials:

1. WOW Student Book (hard copy)
2. Xello (access via ClassLink)
  - a. WOW Pre-Survey
  - b. Matchmaker Activity
  - c. WOW Scavenger Hunt

Equipment:

1. Teacher computer
2. Projection system
3. Student computers or internet-enabled devices

# Connect to Your Future 2026-2027

## **Procedures/Activities:**

Teacher Preparation: Review materials

### Pre-WOW Lesson

- Students will log into Xello.
- Students will complete the *Matchmaker Assessment* (located on student dashboard)
- Use these guiding questions to prompt discussion before students begin Matchmaker:
  - What careers might be available in our community?
  - What kind of education is required for those jobs?
  - What kind of income can those jobs provide?
  - Remind students that there are many high-wage, high-demand job opportunities in our region.
- Students will complete the *WOW Book Scavenger Hunt* and *WOW Pre-Survey* (located on the student dashboard).
- Review logistics for the WOW trip. Refer to the Teacher Guide for more information. Students should not bring books or backpacks to the expo.

### WOW Trip:

- See the Teacher Guide for full details.
- Emphasize that students must use their time wisely and focus on exploring careers that interest them in each world.
- Students may not have time to visit every activity.
- Books and backpacks should be left at school.

### Post-WOW Class Discussion and Activity:

- Students will identify and reflect on their top experiences at WOW.
- Students will complete the WOW Post-Survey in Xello.

## **Assessment:**

1. Class Participation
2. Wow Student Book Scavenger Hunt
3. WOW Attendance and Engagement
4. Pre-Survey & Post-Survey
5. Xello Matchmaker Results

## **Standards:**

- SS.912.E.1.9 – Describe how the earnings of workers are determined.
- TH.912.F.2.2 – Assess the skills needed for related jobs in the community to support career selection.
- SS.912.FL.2.1 – Explain that people choose jobs or careers for income and non-income reasons.
- SS.912.FL.2.2 – Discuss how education, training, and skill development can lead to higher income.
- SS.912.FL.2.3 – Evaluate how people can make informed career decisions by weighing benefits and costs.
- SS.912.P.20.1 – Identify careers in psychological science and practice.
- SS.912.P.20.3 – Identify degree requirements for psychologists and psychology related careers.
- SS.912.FL.1.3 - Evaluate ways people can make more informed education, job, or career decisions by evaluating the benefits and costs of different choices.
- SS.912.FL.1.1 - Discuss that people choose jobs or careers for which they are qualified based on non-income factors, such as job satisfaction, independence, risk, family, or location.

# WOW STUDENT BOOK SCAVENGER HUNT

1. How many worlds are in WOW 2025?
  - a. 8
  - b. 10
  - c. 19
  
2. What program lets a high school student earn high school credit and college credit at the same time?
  - a. Apprenticeship
  - b. On-the-job Training
  - c. Dual Enrollment
  
3. What world provides, produces, and moves products we need every day?
  - a. Public Safety
  - b. Manufacturing, Automotive, Logistics, & Transportation
  - c. Education
  
4. What is the average starting salary of a Gas Distribution Technician?
  - a. \$37,250
  - b. \$52,000
  - c. \$72,500
  
5. Painters, Project Managers, Pipefitters, and Roofers are all in which world?
  - a. Construction
  - b. Hospitality & Tourism
  - c. Engineering
  
6. What is the salary range for a financial analyst?
  - a. \$41, 200 - \$64,350
  - b. \$46,990 - \$77,290
  - c. \$61,960 - \$90,370
  
7. The World of \_\_\_\_\_ is ideal for students who care about nature, enjoy solving problems with science or tech, and want to make a difference.
  - a. Healthcare
  - b. Public Safety
  - c. Agriculture & Natural Resources
  
8. A Pharmacy Technician is required to have a certificate. How long does it take to get a certificate?
  - a. More time than an associate degree
  - b. Less time than an associate degree
  - c. No certificate is needed

# WOW STUDENT BOOK SCAVENGER HUNT

9. What education is required for a CAD Operator?
- a. Associate
  - b. High School
  - c. Doctorate
10. You want a job in Construction. What are two companies you would work for?
- a. Duke and Talquin
  - b. Kessler and Sperry
  - c. Marriott and Social Catering
11. If you are interested in designing buildings, ship, airplanes, or even electronic devices, consider a career in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Hospitality
  - b. Engineering
  - c. Energy & Utilities
12. What is the salary range for a emergency dispatcher?
- a. \$43,680 - \$92,500
  - b. \$47,370 - \$71,950
  - c. \$62,290 - \$102,600
13. The World of \_\_\_\_\_ is perfect for students who enjoy helping others learn, are good communicators, and want to make a difference in their community.
- a. Construction
  - b. Education
  - c. Technology
14. If science is one of your favorite subjects, which world of careers should you consider?
- a. Healthcare
  - b. Hospitality & Personal Services
  - c. Business & Technology
15. Which World includes careers that keep our lights on, water running, and communities powered?
- a. Engineering
  - b. Construction
  - c. Energy & Utilities
16. Which of these skills are important for success in Hospitality & Personal Services?
- a. Excellent customer service
  - b. Flexibility
  - c. Teamwork
  - d. All of the above

# WOW STUDENT BOOK SCAVENGER HUNT

17. Careers in the hospitality industry often involve working with \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Large equipment  
b. Animals  
c. The public
18. World includes careers like Landscaping Technician, Survey & Mapping Technician, and Veterinarian?  
a. Agriculture & Natural Resources  
b. Manufacturing, Automotive, Logistics, & Transportation  
c. Public Safety
19. What is the highest salary shown for careers in Education?  
a. Teacher  
b. Professor  
c. Bus Driver
20. Public Safety careers require \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Physical fitness  
b. Dependability  
c. Communication skills  
d. All of the above
21. Which of these jobs is best for someone who is organized, detail-oriented, and good with numbers?  
a. Chef  
b. Accountant  
c. Electrician
22. What is the salary range for a software developer?  
a. \$34,410 - \$74,300  
b. \$42,990 - \$61,950  
c. \$73,770 - \$128,910
23. Which of these skills are important for success in Construction?  
a. Dependability  
b. Problem Solving  
c. Initiative  
d. All of the above
24. Share your story on Instagram or Facebook with which hashtag?  
a. #northfloridawow  
b. #WOWNFL  
c. #WOWTLH

Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. b, 5. a, 6. c, 7. c, 8. b, 9. b, 10. b, 11. b, 12. a, 13. b, 14. a, 15. c, 16. d, 17. c, 18. a, 19. b, 20. d, 21. b, 22. c, 23. d, 24. a

# WOW CONTACTS

## **WOW Coordinator**

Katie Harwood, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce

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Cell: (772) 631-3527

## **WOW Education Coordinators**

Matt Roberson, Leon County Schools

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Teresa Dennis, Leon County Schools

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## **WOW Volunteer Coordinator**

Jaynie Sundberg, Capital City Bank

Email: [sundberg.jaynie@ccbg.com](mailto:sundberg.jaynie@ccbg.com)

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## **Additional Day-Of Contacts**

Shelly Bell, Tallahassee State College

Email: [shelly.bell@tsc.fl.edu](mailto:shelly.bell@tsc.fl.edu)

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Rod Duckworth, Lively Technical College

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# MORE THAN AN EVENT!

The purpose of North Florida Worlds of Work and its associated programs is to create awareness of the many high-demand, high-wage job opportunities that exist in North Florida early enough in high school that students may plan their pathway and graduate with a plan in place and well on their way to college or career.



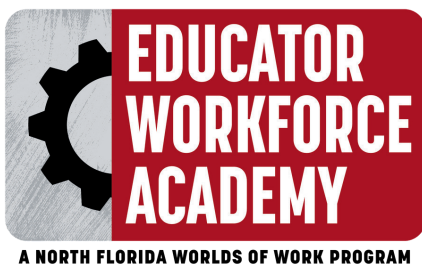
Worlds of Work is a hands-on career expo that brings to life ten worlds representing 18 different industries that have great jobs and career paths right here in North Florida. Through hands-on activities, over 3,000 9th grade students are exposed to 100+ career options early in their high school careers so that they can plan the courses and extracurricular activities that match their career interests.



Community WOW is an afternoon of hands-on career exploration where students, families, and job seekers can connect directly with industry leaders across North Florida. Attendees will not only experience interactive exhibits from more than 100 regional employers, but also have the chance to participate in on-site interviews for part-time, full-time, and internship positions.



WOW Jobs connects local employers with high school seniors interested in entering the workforce following graduation. Students interview with employers at the event and have the potential to receive multiple conditional job offers on the spot!



The Educator Workforce Academy is a year-long training program for educators, exposing them to workforce development and our region's industries. The year-long program is designed to eliminate the disconnection between industry and education, giving our region's students the best chance possible for success.

Learn more at [northfloridaworldsofwork.com](http://northfloridaworldsofwork.com)

