

Health Career Pipeline Activities for K – 12 Students

AHEC staff share with young students what health professionals do and how appealing a health career can be, and they provide encouragement and support to middle and high school students to learn about multi-disciplined health career choices. **Promoting health careers and preparing students for advanced learning improves the likelihood that those students will train to become the next generation of health professionals in their communities.**

Age-appropriate Activity Examples

Pre K – 5 students

- **Introduce health and health careers** through classroom presentations on healthy living with age-appropriate information. Topics include Hand Washing, Germ Stopper, Sun Safety, and Tooth Fairy.
- **Distribute health career materials to teachers.**

Middle School students (6-8 grade)

- **Classroom Presentations**
 - **Introduce the variety of health career choices** and distribute *Hot Jobs* — a health career catalog and interactive online resource that is comprehensive, student-focused and “in demand.”
 - **Describe specific duties of health professionals** such as *What does a pharmacist do?*
 - **Explain disease prevention practices** such as adolescent health, fitness, or nutrition and describe the responsibilities, training requirements, and rewards for health professionals who provide the associated medical care.
- **Offer after-school science and summer camp programs** that include science activities, learning about multiple health career choices and touring area colleges

High School students (9-12 grade)

- **Classroom Presentations**
 - **Introduce the many career choices in healthcare** and distribute *Hot Jobs*. Speakers are often a health professional or teacher from a local college or health professions school.
 - Describe college preparation/financial aid, giving students **practical advice and information on higher education** such as how to choose a school, how to pay for college, and where to look for scholarships and loans.
 - **Discuss employability** — attitudes needed to get and keep a job; resume writing; completing applications; the need for teamwork, communication and basic computer skills; taking a job interest inventory, and exploring educational opportunities for advancement.
- Offer **summer camp programs** with in depth science activities and opportunities to explore multiple health career choices and mentoring by practicing health professionals
- **Share information on colleges, universities, and technical schools** with teachers, counselors, students and parents at career fairs and other events.
- **Provide additional activities and services** to students in underserved and rural areas to help them apply for and be accepted to college, including healthcare-related field trips and administering career aptitude and interest tests.

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