



Making the Character Connection with...

## Workforce Preparation

Wild Over Work

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of Character<sup>SM</sup> every day. It may be hard to imagine, but practicing the Six Pillars now is preparing you for being a person of character in the workplace. Using the Six Pillars as a guide for big decisions you make is only a start. It is important to consider each pillar in all of the decisions you make.

You've heard "practice makes perfect." That is certainly true when you take time to think about the Six Pillars on both big and small decisions. The practice makes it easier to make tough decisions in the future. Good decision-making and problem solving skills show others that you really are someone to count on. In this project you will explore many career options. The activities here ask you to think about the character traits that are particularly important to specific careers.

**This Character Connection contains:**

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to the Wild Over Work project.**
- **Activities suggesting how demonstrating good character will help to prepare you for the workforce.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in everyday life.**

# Character Connection: Workforce Preparation

Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be honest with others; be someone they can trust</li> <li>✓ Keep confidences; never reveal private information and honor a person's right to privacy</li> <li>✓ Be honest, reliable, and ethical</li> <li>✓ Refuse to lie, cheat, deceive, manipulate, exploit, or take advantage of others</li> <li>✓ Build confidence between yourself and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do what you say you will do; be where you say you will be</li> <li>✓ Take pride in your work - pay attention to detail, pursue excellence, and be prepared</li> <li>✓ Follow instructions</li> <li>✓ Persevere and get the job done</li> <li>✓ Manage time and resources wisely</li> <li>✓ Don't promise more than you can provide</li> <li>✓ Set realistic goals and strive diligently to achieve them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Demonstrate a positive attitude</li> <li>✓ Show kindness and sensitivity to the feelings of others</li> <li>✓ Express gratitude</li> <li>✓ Take time to help others</li> <li>✓ Do quality work and attend to details</li> <li>✓ Be a team player</li> <li>✓ Take time to talk to people face-to-face about issues</li> <li>✓ Evaluate work performance accurately</li> </ul>
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Value everyone's opinions and ideas</li> <li>✓ Treat others with courtesy, honor, and respect</li> <li>✓ Build mutual respect and long-term relationships by listening to and communicating openly with others</li> <li>✓ Be friendly and cooperative</li> <li>✓ Be open to and accept instruction or correction</li> <li>✓ Use good manners; be courteous and polite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Allow everyone to speak before making group decisions</li> <li>✓ Be consistent and accurate in recording information</li> <li>✓ Promote and model a positive attitude</li> <li>✓ Be free of bias; remain open-minded; be just</li> <li>✓ Use only your share of available resources and equipment</li> <li>✓ Share knowledge, ideas, and skills with others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be a volunteer; help out whenever you can</li> <li>✓ Play by the rules of your local clubs and fairs</li> <li>✓ Show initiative by being helpful, resourceful, cooperative, and supportive</li> <li>✓ Demonstrate a positive and enthusiastic work attitude</li> <li>✓ Take care of equipment and resources</li> </ul>

# Character Connection: Workforce Preparation

**Activity:** Careers and Character

## **DO:**

Identify three careers that you are particularly interested in. Do some research on the internet to see what the qualifications are for that career and what it takes to be successful in that position. Then interview at least one person in each of your three chosen careers. Ask them how they selected the career, what qualifications they had to have, what they particularly like about their career, and whether there are things they don't like about their career. Explain the Six Pillars of Character to each of the individuals and ask them which Pillars of Character are most important in their job and why. Make a collage or notebook that you can share with others.

## **REFLECT:**

1. What did you learn from individuals who work in the career field you were exploring?
2. Did they tell you things about the job that surprised you?
3. Based on the three interviews, is there one particular Pillar of Character that seems most important in the workplace?
4. How did you share this information with others?

## **APPLY:**

While this activity was particularly planned around character, what else did you learn about the careers you selected? Are there special skills you need to have? Are you getting any of those skills in your 4-H projects or are there projects you could take that would help you develop those skills? What were the skills you used to complete this activity (communications, decision-making, etc.)? How could you change this activity to learn about other things that you are interested in?



# Character Connection: Workforce Preparation

**Activity:** People in Our Community Scavenger Hunt

## **DO:**

Plan a scavenger hunt for other members of your club. Never heard of a scavenger hunt? Here's how it works. Divide your project group or club into teams. Set a time to find as many things as possible on the list you give them. The team with the most items from the list at the end of that time wins.

Because safety is a big part of character, there are a few rules to follow:

1. Work with your project leader to identify other 4-H volunteers who are willing to help. You may need transportation for the teams, or if the groups walk there should be at least one adult with each group and adults stationed at or near the locations on the list.
2. Be sure to ask the owner's permission before you borrow something on the list.
3. Be sure to return anything you borrow!

Here are some suggestions for your list of items to find:

1. Get a signature of a police officer and a sentence that tells the most difficult part of his/her job.
2. Visit a store owner and learn how they got started in their business. Get a business card or signature from the owner.
3. Visit the Chamber of Commerce or talk with a business owner who is a chamber member to learn what the local chamber does in the community. Ask for something that shows you have talked about the chamber.

These are only suggestions. Be creative and add other items to your list. You should have 10 or 15 items listed.

## **REFLECT:**

1. This activity requires lots of planning and organization. Was it worth it?
2. How can you use what you have learned to plan other events – not necessarily scavenger hunts?
3. Have you had other experiences in planning events where you faced similar challenges?

## **APPLY:**

This activity particularly emphasized citizenship (learning about and becoming involved in your community), responsibility (doing your part of the planning and organization), and respect (being respectful to community leaders). How can what you learned in this activity be applied to other things you do in your Workforce Preparation project? How does it relate to other activities that are not 4-H related?



# Character Connection: Workforce Preparation

**Activity:** Can Do It Crew

## DO:

The Can Do It Crew activity is great for your project group or club. It lists jobs that members can do as a fundraiser or service to community project. Create posters for each member of the group advertising some type of work they can help with, or make a poster that advertises the work. Here is an example.

**Let us Help You!**

John, Bob and Lisa from the Can Do 4-H Club want to help you with:  
Spring clean up jobs  
Lawn mowing  
Leaf racking

Work time frame:  
Saturday morning (9 – noon) in May.

Fee:  
To schedule contact:

**Let us Help You!**

Wash windows  
Bake cookies  
Do your grocery shopping

Work time frame:  
Saturday morning (9 – noon) in May.

Fee:  
To schedule contact:

## REFLECT:

1. Was it difficult to determine whether this should be a fundraising or service project?
2. Was everyone in your club or project willing to help?
3. Did everyone who agreed to help fulfill their obligation?
4. How did this activity make you feel?

## APPLY:

Think of all the ways you showed good character in this activity. Are there other things you can do for your community that will help show others you and your friends are people of character? Why is citizenship such an important Pillar of Character?

