



## 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

**Session:** Crafting Your Future: Navigating Vocational Paths and Certificates

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**Session Length:** 45 minutes

### Session Description

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This session explains the benefits of seeking vocational training, trade school, or certifications for various careers and trades. Learners will discover the vast variety of career options that do not require the standard University or graduate degree. This session is ideal for those looking for alternatives to a college degree in order to join the workforce.

### Learning Outcomes

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**Outcome 1:** Understand the vast opportunities, skills and trade options available outside of a common University or graduate degree education.

**Outcome 2:** Identify the types of careers that might suit their personality, values & interests.

**Outcome 3:** Be capable of seeking out trade schools or certification programs within their community that serve their interests.

### Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

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[The theme of the 2024 NOAC is Seek New Heights, emphasizing the drive for excellence that characterizes the OA and our daily lives. How will your session incorporate this theme?]

This session will help arrowman understand vocational opportunities that could enable them to enter the workforce sooner. They should leave this class with a better understanding of their own career interests and be able to work towards a focused path in their own community.

## Facility and Material Needs

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### Facility Needs

- Is this session remote delegate-compatible?* (ie. can the material be engagingly taught via live stream) No - Personality Quiz Activity requires physical attendance
- Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities?* (ie. projector) Yes - projector and ability to connect a laptop for the presenter
- Are there any other specific facility needs for this session?* (ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.) Classroom with desks or tables and chairs

### Material Needs

[Please put "NOAC Training Committee" under "Source" if you need a material and cannot source it yourself - we will try to source it for you. Please note that we would strongly prefer training materials to be in a digital format and would advise against flipcharts and other physical materials. If you need microphones, extension cords, etc., please also specify those needs here.]

Material	Quantity	Source
Vocational School Jobs - Estimated Yearly Income worksheet	?	various websites notated in appendix
Career Planning Personality Quiz	?	<a href="https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/">https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/</a>
Projector or TV monitor	1	NOAC Training Committee
HDMI cable from podium to projector/TV	1	NOAC Training Committee

## Session Preparation Steps

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**Step 1:** Read over Syllabus & Slide presentation.

**Step 2:** Make copies of the “Job Placement Test.”

**Step 3:** Take the “Job Placement Test,” so the trainer has a better understanding of questions asked and possible outcomes.

## Additional Staff Members

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Trainer Name	Email	Phone #
n/a		

## Lesson Plan

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### Introduction

**2 minutes**

*Slides [#2]*

- Mindy Richins
  - Arizona, Wipala Wiki Lodge, Grand Canyon Council
  - 10+ years scouts - Cubs, Commissioner, Troop, Varsity, Venturing, OA
  - Chapter Advisor - going on my 3rd year
  - 3 kids - Scouting family
    - Oldest Daughter did Venturing and Philmont Trek (I got to go too!)
    - Son was a Cub Scout & Ranked up to Star
    - Youngest Daughter - OA, 2nd NOAC, Wipala Wiki Lodge Secretary, Life Scout, Venturing Scout
  - Dental Hygienist

- Queen Creek, AZ
- Have always loved the outdoors, Scouting fits!

### **What is Vocational School?**

**2 minutes**

*Slides [ #4-7 ]*

- An educational Facility that provides technical skills & hands-on training needed to be workforce ready, typically in less time
- Other names:
  - Trade School
  - Technical School
  - Vocational School
  - Certification Program
  - Career Focused Education
- Examples: veterinary technician, dental assistant, paralegal, etc...

### **Topic 1 - Why Vocational Training?**

**10 minutes**

*Slides [##]-[##]*

- Often less expensive than degree programs; avoiding high student loan debt
- Don't want a Bachelor's Degree or not yet
- Less time in the classroom; often between a few months and 2 years in length
- High School GPA, SAT and ACT tests are usually not required
- Many schools partner with local businesses offering off-site work experience
  - Internships and externships can bridge the gap between the classroom and real-world work experience.
- Recent survey found that over 90 percent of professionals in trade jobs felt positively about their:
  - Earning potential
  - Job stability
  - Upward mobility
  - Upskilling opportunities

### **Topic 2 - Where Do I Start? What do I want to do for a living?**

**5 minutes**

*Slides [##]-[##]*

- How to determine your career path:
  - What do you want your day-to-day routine to look like?
  - What type of work are you suited to?
  - Do you want to work alone or alongside others?
  - Do you want to work in an office or outdoors?
  - Are you willing to travel?
  - How much do you want to work on a computer?
- What career will bring me purpose and meaning?
- Career Assessment Tests
  - Found all over the internet. You will often pay to take a test online.
  - Test is based on your interests, values, personality, and talents.
  - Best tests draw from all of these *and* work w/ Dept of Labor's O\*NET
    - Dept of Labor's O\*NET OnLine (<https://www.onetonline.org/>) – largest database of occupational information

### Activity

**Materials Needed:** Hand out "Career Planning Personality Quiz"

**Length of Activity:** 10 minutes

**Activity Description:** Learners will answer 60 yes or no questions regarding interests, skills & personality attributes. The last page of the quiz has a career chart that links test answers to the learners strongest interests and personality type.

### Topic 3 - I think I have a Career in Mind, now what?

2 minutes

Slides [##]-[##]

- High School Counselors often have information for local vocational schools.
  - Make an appointment with your school counselor.
- Search online for facilities in your Community, City, or State.
- Ask someone in the field how they obtained their training.
- Each vocational school has its own admissions criteria, but expect to complete an application and submit a copy of your high-school transcript or GED. You may also be required to take a placement test.

#### Topic 4 - What to Look for in a Trade School

5 minutes

Slides [###]-[###]

- Research placement record of its graduates for the program you are considering.
  - Are the graduates employed in the field?
- Does the school help students with job placement?
- Make sure it's an accredited vocational school that offers the diploma, certification or degree you need.
- Tour the facility.

#### Topic 5 - Tips to Success in School

2 minutes

Slides [###]-[###]

- Have a good attitude.
- Keep in mind, instructors are likely well known in their field.
  - They can help you with networking.
  - Be humble:
    - Be willing to take criticism.
    - You are always learning.
- Plan to work hard to get the job you want.

3 minutes

#### Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

Slides [###]-[###]

- For the final three minutes, think about your current and future roles in the OA, in Scouting, and in life. Write down three key takeaways from this session that will enable you to Seek New Heights in your life and future.
- Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

### Appendix: Resources and Source Material

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Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	Available online at:

	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose">https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose</a>
Dept of Labor's Occupational Database	<a href="https://www.onetonline.org/">https://www.onetonline.org/</a>
	<a href="https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/vocational-trade-schools/">https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/vocational-trade-schools/</a> -
Career Assessment Tests	<a href="https://jobzology.com/career-assessment-tests/">https://jobzology.com/career-assessment-tests/</a>
6 month Certificate Programs	<a href="https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/6-month-certificate-programs">https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/6-month-certificate-programs</a>
Another Option after High School	<a href="https://www.livecareer.com/resources/careers/recent-grads/vocational-school">https://www.livecareer.com/resources/careers/recent-grads/vocational-school</a>
The Benefits of Career and Technical Education Programs	<a href="https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/the-benefits-of-career-and-technical-education-programs-for-high-schoolers">https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/the-benefits-of-career-and-technical-education-programs-for-high-schoolers</a>
What are Certifications and Certificates	<a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/get-started/what-are-certifications-and-certificates">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/get-started/what-are-certifications-and-certificates</a>
How Trade Schools Teach Hard and Soft Skills	<a href="https://www.ict.edu/news-events/how-trade-schools-teach-hard-and-soft-skills/">https://www.ict.edu/news-events/how-trade-schools-teach-hard-and-soft-skills/</a>
Trade School vs. Career Focused colleges and Universities	<a href="https://www.goodwin.edu/enews/trade-school-vs-career-focused-colleges-and-universities/">https://www.goodwin.edu/enews/trade-school-vs-career-focused-colleges-and-universities/</a>
Young People want Skilled Trades Careers, so what's stopping them	<a href="https://blog.thumbtack.com/young-people-want-skilled-trades-careers-so-whats-stopping-them-cab3fc35a846">https://blog.thumbtack.com/young-people-want-skilled-trades-careers-so-whats-stopping-them-cab3fc35a846</a>
Career Planning Personality Quiz	<a href="https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/">https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/</a>