

Lesson Plan for Career Exploration

There's No Better Time to be Skilled: Leading with Skills



Time 45-50 minutes



Materials Needed

- Seven pieces of poster paper with the titles of each area of the Program of Work on them
- Markers
- Names of students on scraps of paper that can be “drawn” from a cup
- Worksheet “Experiencing Leadership – Planning the Program of Work” one for each student



Outcome

1. Students will define leadership.
2. Students will exercise their leadership ability by brainstorming events for the chapter’s Program of Work.
3. Students will exercise their leadership skills to begin planning an event for the chapter’s Program of Work.



Key Points

- Leadership is influence
- A SkillsUSA Chapter’s Program of Work contains seven components:
 - Professional Development
 - Activities that help students learn leadership and work-related skills
 - Community Service
 - Activities that improve the quality of our school and community
 - Employment
 - Activities that increase members’ awareness of quality job practices, attitude, opportunities for employer contact and eventual employment
 - Ways and Means
 - Activities that raise the necessary funds for our chapter to operate
 - SkillsUSA Championships

- Activities that provide members with opportunities to demonstrate leadership and technical skills through competitive events
- Public Relations
 - Activities that make the general public aware of SkillsUSA member accomplishments and contributions to our school, community and the nation
- Social Activities
 - Activities that create opportunities for members to meet others in their school and community



Content

Objective 1: Students will define leadership.

Imagine that you were appointed to a committee with other students to plan and organize a school-wide career day. You do not know any of the other students on the committee. During your first meeting no one knew where to start, and you all stared at each other. If a suggestion was made, another person immediately shut down the idea. The committee was obviously lacking focus, direction and leadership.

What would it have been like to be a member of this committee?

Encourage students to share. Have they actually experienced a situation similar to this? If so, encourage them to share that experience.

If this committee met again, what could you do differently to make it a better experience?

Encourage students to think about how they could be prepared, if put in this situation again, to exhibit leadership skills to lead the group.

If changes are not made, what would you anticipate the event being like?

Encourage sharing. What might the event be like if someone steps up to lead?

Keeping these experiences in mind, how would you define “leadership?” Think to yourself for a moment.

Next, with someone sitting close to you, have a conversation about the definition of leadership.

Monitor student discussions.

Who will share with the group? Capture thoughts on a common surface.

These are great definitions; however, a well-known leadership author, John Maxwell, has perhaps the most simple and effective definition of leadership. He states, “Leadership is influence.”

What does this mean to you?

Is this influence always positive? Why or why not?

Objective 2: Students will exercise their leadership ability by brainstorming events for the chapter’s Program of Work.

Display the posters with the seven areas of the Program of Work around the room. Students will need to be able to write ideas on the posters.

Let’s take this opportunity to exercise your leadership skills and your influence. As you may know, the SkillsUSA organization outlines items that should be included in a “Program of Work” for local chapters. The members of the local chapter create the program of work based on the chapter’s needs and interests.

One important concept of leadership is making sure everyone’s voice is heard when we are making decisions. We will start by collecting ideas from everyone to create our program of work.

Around the room are seven posters; each has an area of the program of work as their title. Each of you will need a marker. When you hear the word “brainstorm” silently travel to at least four posters and provide at least one activity the chapter could do related to this topic. Brainstorm.

Excellent work! Next, let’s take a walk. When you hear the word “walk” silently travel around to the posters and read the ideas shared. You will have one minute. Walk!

What are the ideas you are most excited about? Why?

Objective 3: Students will exercise their leadership skills to begin planning an event for the chapter’s Program of Work.

Leaders also have to learn to work in a team. Your names will be randomly drawn from this container, and you will each be assigned to one of the seven areas of the program of work. As a team, select one idea from the poster to begin developing into an activity for our chapter. A template has been provided for you to begin planning this event.

Provide time for the students to work on organizing the event. Encourage their sheet to be complete by the end of the hour.

Another important concept of leadership is to delegate. The Poster and activity planning sheets you created will be given to the committee or officer team to create the Program of Work. At this point, you have delegated this task to others, but be sure to offer assistance with the events to the leadership of our organization.

Assessment



Awareness Affirmation

Wow! We have accomplished a lot today. Grab a piece paper. Take time to do a reflection journal on the events of the day. Respond to the following:

1. Define Leadership.
2. How have you influenced others in today's activities?
3. How were you influenced by others in today's activities?
4. Of the activities we discussed today, which one are you looking forward to participating in as a member of SkillsUSA?

We will be giving all of your work to our leadership team for SkillsUSA. Look for activities to begin happening soon!

Experiencing Leadership – Developing the Program of Work

Names:

Directions: As a team, review the list of possible activities for your area and select ONE you want to begin planning. Complete this sheet based on that activity.

Which Program of Work area is the event for? (Select one.)

Professional Development
Employment

Community Service

Ways and Means
Relations

SkillsUSA Championships

Public

Social Activities

Event Name:

Description of the Event:

Target date for the event to happen: _____

Potential costs associated with the event:

Item	Source	Cost

Goals of the Event:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Steps to accomplish the goals:

Step	What needs to happen	Target date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

5.		
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