



STEM “What’s my Line” Career Event

This event is aimed at KS3/4 students to give them an insight into a variety of careers which have Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths at their heart. It is based on the quiz show “What’s my Line?” and involves the students questioning STEM volunteers about their careers and their current role in an attempt to guess their job title.

The ideal session lasts about 60 minutes with a maximum of 60 students in each session, but this is very flexible. The students work in small groups of between 5 and 6 and rotate around ~5 different volunteers, spending 5 minutes with each one.

Volunteers bring “props” with them which are used to prompt discussion and should relate to the volunteers’ occupation.

The event is run as a competition, so at the end of their 5 minutes questioning time, the students complete a guess sheet, writing down what they think the volunteer does for a job. Students can also write down several keywords that they think relate to the volunteer’s occupation.

Timings are controlled by the event co-ordinator. Once all volunteers have been visited, each will “reveal” their job titles giving more information about their props and what they do (1 minute each). During this time, each group’s scores are added up and prize awarded to the winning team.

How does the event run?

Students should be split into groups before **the event starting** (this saves a huge amount of time at the beginning of each session) and the session runs as follows:

5 mins	Students arrive and sit down
5 mins	Introduction to the activity
30 mins	Groups visit a minimum of 5 different volunteers
15 mins	Volunteers reveal their job titles
5 mins	Prize giving

What is expected of the Teachers?

- Contact Science Oxford at least 2-3 months in advance of the event to give them time to recruit sufficient volunteers.
- Assign students into groups before the event, giving the groups names or numbers.
- Provide a large room such as the hall with tables positioned in a semi-circle around the edge with chairs around the tables.

What is expected of the Volunteers?

- Be at the school promptly in time for the start of the first session.
- Bring along 3-4 **“props”** which you use regularly in your job and which will stimulate conversation. Equipment, reference books, instruments etc.
- The 5 minutes of discussion should include students asking questions about your props and about your job.
- Be prepared for the question “How much do you earn?” It usually comes up so have an answer prepared!
- Try to encourage the students to talk as much as possible.
- At the end of the 5-minute discussion, students will guess your job title and fill in a guess sheet which they will have with them.
- Think of a couple of key words that you want the students to include in their guess i.e. “researcher” or “managing director”, or” engineer”
- At the end of the session, each volunteer will be asked to spend no more than 1 minute “revealing” their occupation. Please include your name, who you work for, your job title, a brief summary of what you do and one thing you enjoy about your job.

Variations on a theme

- For older students the time with each volunteer can be extended and the competitive element removed.
- Concentrate on one subject e.g. physics, maths, engineering and we will find the relevant volunteers.
- Events have been run with parents attending as well, but these tend to be less successful – the parents tend to do all the talking.