



The model for COOL Week is a structured, work-based experience available for all senior level students in Leander ISD. Businesses can choose which days and how many days that will work best for them.

Goals

The focus for COOL Week is for students to experience their chosen career field; during the week students will:

- understand that what they are learning in school is used in the work place.
- apply skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and communication throughout the week's activities.
- learn how specific occupations are performed and become aware of the aptitudes, education, and training required to be successful in those occupations.
- make informed career decisions based on actual work experience.

On Location – “What will we do with them?” (Suggested, but not required!)

First day: The business or agency personnel provide students the opportunity to fill out an application and undergo a practice interview. The application and the interview are critiqued to identify where improvement is needed and to reinforce positive actions. Students then receive an orientation to the business or agency and are presented with a problem to research or solve during the week. To facilitate the problem solving process, students work in teams. Once assigned the problem, the teams are assigned to departments or individual to job shadow, to learn about that department's part in solving the problem, and to develop possible solutions to the problem.

Next day(s): Students will participate in the required and suggested activities listed below as selected by the on-site coordinator. As much as possible, students are given hands-on experience to enhance learning. The more realistic the problem, the more productive the experience is for the business and meaningful to the student.

Final day: Students are given the opportunity to prepare their proposals and to present their ideas to employees of the business. We provide students with a journal to log daily activities, take notes, and reflect on their experience.

Note: *Neither project nor presentation are REQUIRED. Your timeline might not be suitable for these activities. If students are job shadowing or on site for less than a week, activities are flexible.*

Some other suggested activities:

- Employment application and/or resume critique.
- Practice interview and critique.
- Orientation to business or agency.
- Assignment of problem to the student teams.
- Job shadow.
- Oral presentation of solution to problem by student teams.
- Program evaluation.
- Instruction on how to complete employment application.
- Field experiences (off site visits when applicable).
- Assign special projects related to problem.
- Rotation through different departments to gain as much exposure to the business as possible.
- Students attend relevant meetings.
- Practical hands-on activities.

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