

# Step-by-step guide to being a role model at Inspiring the Future events



Role model guide V1.0



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## Why Inspiring the Future?

We know from research in Aotearoa and overseas that young people often have narrow ideas about their future. In a survey of over 7,700 young people, more than half aspired to one of just nine jobs. Less than 1% knew about their preferred role from a volunteer engaging with their school from the world of work.

That's why, no matter what your job is or the journey you took to get there, you can be a role model for young people by volunteering alongside other members of the community at an Inspiring the Future event.



## How Inspiring the Future works

1. Sign up at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)
2. Complete your profile online and do a criminal record check.
3. Schools read your profile and invite you to attend an event.
4. Accept the invitation.
5. Attend the event.
  - 5a. 20 questions. Students ask you questions to try and guess what job you do.
  - 5b. The reveal. You leave the room and then come back wearing your work clothes or holding a prop that represents what you do. You reveal your story – what job you do, the pathway you took to get there and any challenges you faced.
  - 5c. Discussion groups. Students sit with you to ask questions and learn more about your story and job.

There is a video of an Inspiring the Future event in action at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)

## How much time do I need to commit?

- Allow 4-5 hours for the event, plus your travel time.
- Allow time to prepare.

# What you need to know about being a role model

## Before the event

- Decide what clothes or prop you will take to represent the work you do (see below for ideas).
- Prepare a short talk about your story that you can share at the reveal (see below for ideas).
- Think about what you'd like to say in the discussion groups.
- Check the event invitation online. It includes important details about the event. For example, the event start time, the age of the students, if there will be a welcome ceremony and your required response. Contact the school if you need more details.

## What to wear and bring to the event

- Wear casual clothes and carry photo identification.
- Bring your work clothes or a prop that represents the work you do with you (they should be hidden in a bag).

You should arrive at the time the school tells you, or at least 20 minutes before the start of the event so you can meet the teachers and get familiar with the set up.

**TIP:** It's important to arrive on time. Plan your trip in advance and allow enough time to travel.

## Ideas for props

You could bring along a prop or image that represents what you do or your career journey. You could also bring an example of your work or something you use in your job.

**TIP:** If your prop is something that students can interact with during the discussion groups, even better.

## Examples of props to represent jobs or sectors

SECTOR	PROP
Finance	Credit cards, money, piggy bank
Engineering and manufacturing	Toolbox
Environment and agriculture	Plants
Hospitality and events management	Apron
Information technology	Computer hardware
Law	Gavel
Marketing, advertising and public relations	Products, storyboards, media release in a publication
Social services	Teddy bear
Transport and logistics	Toy train/car/ aeroplane



## During the event

### 20 questions activity (30 minutes)

You'll sit with the other role models in front of the students wearing your casual clothes. You will be numbered so the students can identify you.

A teacher will invite students to ask you closed questions such as:

- Do you use maths at work?
- Do you wear a uniform?

You answer "yes" or "no", "sometimes" or "maybe". You can also say things like "not very often". Every role model answers every question.

The students will write the answers on a piece of paper.

You'll then leave the room with the other role models and change into your work clothes or pick up your prop.

While you're away, the students will try to guess what everyone's job is.

### The reveal (30 minutes)

You'll return wearing your work clothes or holding your prop.

A teacher will prompt you to step forward, say your name and reveal your job. You then have about 3 minutes to talk about your job, the pathway you took to get there, and any challenges you faced.

You should include:

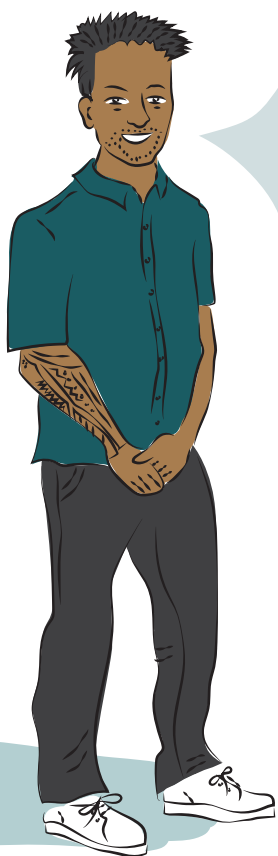
- what you do now (explain your job in simple language)
- how you got to do what you do now (your pathway)
- how you overcame any challenges along the way.

You could write down your reveal statement before the event and bring it with you to read out.

**TIP:** If you find it hard to explain your job in simple terms, consider using an analogy. One role model used a bake sale analogy to explain her job as a marketing manager. She said, "Everyone loves chocolate chip cookies right? Well, it's my job to make everyone want the raisin cookies instead."



## Example of what to talk about in the reveal



Talofa lava. My name's Dwayne and I'm a web designer.

I come from a traditional Samoan family. My parents believed in the church and in education. They wanted us to be the best we could be. They moved to New Zealand to give us a better life.

After secondary school, I wasn't sure what to do next. For a while I felt lost, not knowing my place in the world. I ended up working for a real estate business, taking photos of houses for sale and putting them onto a website. That's when I became interested in how websites work, so I went to university and studied web design.

Now I'm working for a cool company that makes websites and videos for all sorts of different people, from e-bike shops to musicians!

## Discussion groups (1 hour)

After the reveal, the students break into small groups around each role model to ask questions and learn more about you, what you do and how you got there.

- Think about what you'd like to say about your job and your pathway before the event.
- Read about the school's values on the event invitation. Is there something the school would like you to talk about or share during the discussion groups?
- Encourage the students to ask you questions.

## Advice and support

For further advice and support you should sign up and then log in at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)

On **My Landing Page** you'll find the following.

- This step-by-step guide.
- Tips and tricks video. Teachers and role models who have already taken part in Inspiring the Future events share their advice with you.
- Video of an Inspiring the Future event in action.

If you have any questions about the particular event you're attending you should contact the school.

For any other questions, contact the team behind Inspiring the Future at the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

**Email [inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz](mailto:inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz)**

**Phone 0800 601 301**



## **Tertiary Education Commission**

Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua



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