

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



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Why Inspiring the Future?

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

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 others at an Inspiring the Future event.

How Inspiring the Future works

1. Sign up at 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 pre-event meeting.
6. Attend the event:
 - a. **Investigation session.** Students ask role models questions to try and guess what job they do.
 - b. **The reveal.** Role models reveal their story – what their job is like, the pathway they took and any challenges they faced.
 - c. **Deep dive.** Students ask open questions to learn more.

Event organisers have instructions to send you an event run sheet. Download an example at inspiringthefuture.org.nz/role-model-online-event-resources

How much time do I need to commit?

- Allow time to prepare for the event.
- Allow 30 minutes for the online pre-event meeting.
- Allow around 1 hour for the main event.

Preparing for the event

Reveal presentation

Prepare a 5–7-minute talk and 2–3-slide PowerPoint presentation about your job and pathway. Use the Role model PowerPoint template and email it to the event organiser one week before the event.

Download the Role model PowerPoint template at inspiringthefuture.org.nz/role-model-online-event-resources

To find the event organiser's email address, log in on the Inspiring the Future website, go to My events and view the event details.

Guidance

Use photos/images/illustrations/graphics! This is a visual aid to support your kōrero, rather than something for students to read.

Include:

- your job title and an explanation of your job that is understandable for the students' age
- your pathway – you could use a graphic to support this
- any challenges you had to overcome
- anything else you wish to share, whether it's to do with your job, what you were like when you were the students' age, if you had any role models when you were younger, etc.
- You could also share your screen or do a virtual workplace tour, or show students projects you're working on or equipment you use for your job.

Tips for talking to students

- Use plain language – don't use industry-specific terms, technical terms or acronyms.
- Try to connect the explanation of your job with something students see, do or use in their everyday lives. For example, a cyber security analyst talked about how scanning QR codes with your phone can lead to hackers breaking your phone, and her job was to stop that happening.

Check your event invitations

Your event invitations from the school will include:

- details on how to get online for the pre-event meeting and main event
- the pre-event meeting date and timing
- the main event date and timing
- other important details to help you prepare, such as the age of the students and what the school hopes they will learn.

Technical set-up

- Use a headset and microphone if you have them, to reduce background noise.
- Sign up or sign in to the school's chosen online video meeting platform before the event.
- Familiarise yourself with its functionality and test your camera, microphone and sound.

The pre-event meeting

Attending the pre-event meeting is essential for the success of the main event.

It's a great opportunity to:

- meet and get more information from the event organiser
- meet the other role model/s
- ask any questions you may have
- test that your device audio and camera work.

The event organiser may:

- outline how the event will work
- ask what you plan to say and share during the event
- share information about the school's values and culture
- assign the order role models will go in
- practise using the online video meeting platform, including sharing the PowerPoint presentation.

TIP: The event invitation or pre-event meeting will include instructions on whether they want you to do a mihi or pepeha or sing waiata. Read our cultural competency guide for support. Download it from inspiringthefuture.org.nz/role-model-online-event-resources

What to do on the day of the event

Technical guidelines

Before the event

- Set up your equipment.
- Think about how you're joining the event. For example, if you're on a laptop, think about propping it up, and make sure your face is well-lit.
- Test that your audio and video work and make sure your device is charged or plugged in.
- Close unnecessary tabs in your browser and turn off notifications such as email or messaging.

Join the event 5 minutes ahead of time so you can sort out any technical issues.

During the event

- If you aren't talking, mute or turn off your microphone.
- Avoid noisy activities like typing while your microphone is on.

The event

Welcome (5 minutes)

The host welcomes role models and students to the event.

Event overview (1 minute)

The host explains how the rest of the event will run:

- Investigation session. Students ask role models questions to try and guess what job they do.
- The reveal. Role model 1 reveals their story – what their job is like, the pathway they took and any challenges they faced.
- Deep dive. Students ask role model 1 open questions to learn more.

Repeat The reveal and Deep dive for role model 2 (and for any further role models).

Investigation session (8 minutes)

Students ask yes/no questions to help them guess what the role models do. Each role model answers yes, no, sometimes or maybe.

Students can use the Investigation session template to note down questions and answers.

Towards the end of the session, students are encouraged to guess what each role model does for a job.

Role models tell students their jobs.

Role model 1 reveal (7 minutes)

Role model 1 reveals what their job is like, their pathway and any challenges they've faced with a 2–3-slide presentation, or supported by either a physical prop, online meeting background, or showing their workplace.

Role model 1 deep dive (7 minutes)

Students ask role model 1 open-ended questions about their job and pathway.

Role model 2 reveal (7 minutes)

Role model 2 reveals what their job is like, their pathway and any challenges they've faced with a 2–3-slide presentation, or supported by either a physical prop, online meeting background, or showing their workplace.

Role model 2 deep dive (7 minutes)

Students ask role model 2 open-ended questions about their job and pathway.

Repeat the reveal and deep dive for any further role models.

Close the event (3 minutes)

Students share their favourite part of the event or something they learned.

Role models are asked to give one piece of advice to the students.

Advice and support

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

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

Email **inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz**

Phone **0800 601 301**