

ENGAGING YOUTH IN LEARNING ABOUT SKILLED TRADES

A Self-Assessment Checklist

Purpose: This checklist is designed to help organizations assess how effectively they engage youth in learning about careers in the skilled trades.

Instructions: Check Yes / No for each item / In Progress.



1. Early Awareness and Outreach	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We introduce skilled trades careers to youth early (middle school or earlier)			
We clearly explain what trades are in simple, youth-friendly language			
We use storytelling that shows real workers and real job sites			
2. Hands-On Learning and Experiences	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We provide try-a-trade or hands-on workshops for youth			
We organize site visits to real workplaces			
We use simulations, demos, or interactive learning tools			
We give youth opportunities to safely use tools and materials			
We connect learning activities directly to real job tasks			
3. School and Education System Engagement	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We partner with schools and educators to integrate career exposure			
We participate in career fairs and classroom presentations			
We support co-op, internship, or work placement opportunities			
We provide teachers with accurate resources on trades			
4. Youth-Friendly Messaging and Communication	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We use plain language free of technical jargon			
We use social media and digital platforms where youth are active			
We showcase diverse youth and role models in trades			
We emphasize purpose, identity, and real-world impact			
We avoid stereotypes about trades careers			

5. Mentorship and Role Models	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We connect youth with apprentices or young workers as mentors			
We include Indigenous youth and community role models where appropriate			
We provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning			
We support ongoing mentor relationships beyond one-time events			
We highlight pathways from youth to apprenticeship success			
6. Accessibility and Inclusion	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We ensure programs are free or low-cost for youth participants			
We reduce barriers related to transportation or geography			
We offer flexible delivery formats (in-person, online, community-based)			
We create safe, welcoming environments for all youth			
We actively include Indigenous youth in program design and participation			
7. Family and Community Engagement	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We engage parents, guardians, and caregivers in awareness efforts			
We provide information that helps families understand trade pathways			
We work with community organizations and youth-serving agencies			
We build trust through consistent community presence			
We reflect local community priorities and contexts			
8. Measurement and Improvement	YES	NO	IN PROGRESS
We track youth participation and engagement levels			
We measure changes in awareness and interest in trades			
We collect youth feedback after activities and programs			
We adapt programming based on youth input			
We share results with partners and stakeholders			
TOTAL			

Scoring Guide:

27 plus Yes: Strong foundation

16-26 Yes: Moderate – improvements needed

0–15 Yes: Significant gaps – strategic action required