

## **October Life Skill On The Go | ACTIONS: How Do I Get There? Planning: Education, Job Readiness and Skills Building**

No matter how old your youth is, it is always the right time to help them dream about their future. Having dreams and goals can help lift them to a higher trajectory towards their personal success. “Colorado ranks in the top five states nationwide for the greatest number of degree holders per capita, yet only one in five Colorado ninth-grade students will earn a college degree, ranking the state in the bottom quartile nationally” ([https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/Home/About/About\\_CiC.aspx](https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/Home/About/About_CiC.aspx)).

Take a few minutes to start a conversation with your youth about their future and what ACTIONS it will take to reach their goals. Each youth is different. Support them to find options that align with their interests, values and skills. What options are the best for them: college, the military, vocational schooling or building specific skills sets.

### **Conversation Starter:**

- What do you dream about being when you grow up?
- Have you thought about how you are going to get to where you want to be? What will it take?
- Why does your youth have the interests that they do? How important are they to them?
- Spend some time giving advice and exploring options with your mentee.

**If you are interested in exploring this topic further we hope the following activities, community events and websites are helpful.**

### **Activities to do as a Match:**

1. Mentee shadows their mentor at work. Your mentee can experience what a day at your job is like, the expectations, the environment and the things that inspire you and make your job interesting. AYO recommends they only shadow for half of a day, otherwise it can be too much for you, your place of business and/or your mentee.
2. Volunteer at an organization that the youth might be interested in work for, or in a similar field. Just like shadowing you at a job engage them in the same conversations together and with the staff of the organization you volunteer at. Keep track of the places you volunteer, as this can be a positive thing to share on school or work applications in the future.
3. Do some research on possible careers in which your youth would be interested. O\*NET is a website with information on many different occupations. Go to [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org) and click on “Find Occupations” to start exploring.

### **Events in the Community:**

1. Attend a college fair to learn more about the different schools your youth could attend and what they are looking for in potential students. Visit the Colorado Council website ([www.coloradocouncil.org](http://www.coloradocouncil.org)) to find and register for fairs in your area.
2. Speak to a military recruiter about possible careers and what the military can offer. Find a recruiter at Today’s Military ([www.todaymilitary.com](http://www.todaymilitary.com)).
3. Plan a visit to a local college or trade school. You will get a feel for the school, attend a couple of classes and get a chance to ask questions. There are several website in the Website Resources section of this assignment.

### **Website Resources**

College In Colorado [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org)

College In Colorado's website offers a one-stop resource to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for college.

The Colorado Council [www.coloradocouncil.org](http://www.coloradocouncil.org)

The Colorado Council want to help educate and assist students in achieving their higher educational goals. You can find many of the college fairs on their website at [http://www.coloradocouncil.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=74&Itemid=547](http://www.coloradocouncil.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74&Itemid=547).

Today's Military [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)

Today's Military's website offers information about the armed forces, preparing to serve and choosing a career.

Pickens Technical College [www.pickenstech.org](http://www.pickenstech.org)

Pickens Technical College offers nearly 50 certificate programs to adults and high school students as part of the Aurora Public Schools & the Colorado Community College System. Find a list of the programs they offer by clicking on this link [www.pickenstech.org/programs](http://www.pickenstech.org/programs).

Community College of Aurora [www.ccaurora.edu](http://www.ccaurora.edu)

Community College of Aurora is a unique, diverse community that offers quality education on campuses in Aurora and Denver, Colorado and through online classes. Whether you want to earn a degree, start an education that is guaranteed to transfer to any state college or university in Colorado, or receive the training you need to enhance or begin a new career, Community College of Aurora has a solution for you. Take a look through the viewbook below for some quick facts about CCA.

GCFLearnFree.org® [www.gcflearnfree.org](http://www.gcflearnfree.org)

GCFLearnFree.org® creates and provides quality, innovative online learning opportunities to anyone who wants to improve the technology, literacy and math skills needed to be successful in both work and life. By delivering over 750 different lessons to millions of people in over 200 countries and territories ABSOLUTELY FREE, GCFLearnFree.org is a worldwide leader in online education.

O\*NET On Line [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

Welcome to your tool for career exploration and job analysis! O\*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more!