

# Engage Industry for Guest Speakers

Relevant Learning Levels

✓  
Primary

✓  
Secondary

✓  
Post-Secondary

## WHY HOST GUEST SPEAKERS?

Inviting guest speakers from the Energy & Natural Resources (ENR) sector helps students connect what they're learning to real careers and real people. These engagements can deepen students' understanding of classroom content, foster career awareness, and establish meaningful school-to-industry connections. This guide offers recommendations to help teachers identify, coordinate, and maximize the impact of guest speaker opportunities.

START HERE

1

## Begin with a Topic

Start by identifying a relevant unit, project, or theme in your curriculum where an industry speaker would add value. Consider careers, technologies, or environmental challenges that align with the topic.

### Examples:

- **Energy:** Corrosion-Control Fitter, Electrical Meter Technician, Engineering Technician, Estimator, Gas Control Technician, Gas Meter Mechanic, Gas Pipefitter, Gas System Operator, Hydro Electrician, Hydro Stationary Engineer, Lineworker, Power Distributor and Dispatcher, Power Plant Instrument and Control Technician, Power Plant Operator, Relay Technician, Substation Technician, Telecommunication Technician, Transmission System Operator, Utilities Locator, Utility Service Specialist.
- **Natural Resources:** Aquaculturist, Range Conservationist, Rangeland Scientist, Silviculturist, Timber Manager, Trapper, Logging Operations, Inspector, Natural Resource Scientist, Park Manager, Water Resources Manager, Wildlife Manager, Forest Ranger

Speakers can join in person or virtually—remote visits can reduce scheduling barriers and expand access to professionals across the state or country.

2

## Identify and Contact a Speaker

Explore multiple pathways to find the right guest:

### Start Local:

- Ask school or district contacts if anyone has connections in relevant fields
- Engage parents, alumni, or local partners
- Reach out to businesses, agencies, or unions in energy, conservation, or infrastructure
- Relevant organizations may include:
  - Renewable energy companies
  - Local or regional utility providers (electric, gas, water)
  - Environmental nonprofits or public agencies (e.g., parks, forestry, planning departments)
  - Skilled trades employers (HVAC, electrical, construction)
  - Colleges or training centers with ENR programs

### When reaching out, whether directly or through a tool, be sure to include:

- The topic or theme of the lesson
- Preferred dates and session length
- Grade level(s) of students
- Specific goals for the visit (e.g., career exposure, relevance to current unit)

**Tip:** Use our Letter of Request (example on the [GIE Educators Page](#)) as a starting place for your request

3

## Prep Guest Speaker

### Once confirmed:

- Share class background and age group
- Offer talking points (see below)
- Set expectations for timing and interactivity
- Provide technology/test access for virtual sessions

### Suggested Talking Points (varies by learning level)

- What does a “day in your life” look like?
- Why did you choose this career?
- What kind of education or training do you need?
- What advice do you have for students interested in this field?



4

## Prep Students

### Help students get the most from the visit:

- Assign them to prep 1–2 questions ahead of time
- Have them take notes on “What surprised me” or “What skills this job uses” (vary questions to account for relevant material and learning level)

5

## Reflect and Share

After the guest speaker’s lesson, reflect with students on the visit.

Example questions include:

Primary	Secondary	Post Secondary
<p><b>Focus: Spark curiosity, personal connection, simple takeaways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was something you heard the speaker say?</li> <li>• Did you hear about a job you’d want to try one day? Why or why not?</li> <li>• What tools or equipment did they use in their job?</li> <li>• What is one thing the speaker helps take care of (like air, water, animals, etc.)?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus: Career awareness, skill connection, values alignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What surprised you most about their job or career path?</li> <li>• What education or training did the speaker need—and would that path interest you?</li> <li>• What problems are they helping to solve in the world?</li> <li>• Which skills or subjects (math, science, communication, etc.) showed up in their work?</li> <li>• Could you see yourself working in that type of job someday? Why or why not?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus: Career readiness, networking, job-market insight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What specific roles or career pathways did the speaker describe?</li> <li>• What technical or soft skills did they emphasize as important in their field?</li> <li>• Did anything they shared shift how you think about your own career plans?</li> <li>• What types of companies or sectors could you see yourself applying to based on this talk?</li> <li>• What follow-up actions could you take based on today’s speaker (e.g., reach out, research more, update resume)?</li> </ul>