

Ten Easy Steps for **Recruiting Girls** for Your Professional Technical Class

- ① Create class brochures and posters! Market your class in a way that counteracts stereotypes about the trades and workers in the trades. (The Trades Offer Girls Options (TO GO) project will gladly share sample materials.)
- ② Make your class environment welcoming. Check in with a female colleague or counselor for feedback on your space. Display images of young women working in your classroom. Your classroom should represent the projects and the students (of all races and genders) who build them!
- ③ Host interactive workshops on Parent's or Open House Nights! Educate parents about the living wage careers in the trades and inform them of your curriculum.
- ④ Introduce middle-school-aged girls to your classroom with a hands-on project. Most high schools host field trips to help rising ninth graders transition comfortably to a new school. Work with your counseling staff to insure that your class is included in the tour.
- ⑤ Visit "feeder" middle schools and host "girl-friendly" service-learning projects. Partner with a middle school science department to build bird houses or flower planters. Work with the math department to demonstrate applied math.
- ⑥ Lead workshops for middle school girls at the annual Women in Trades Fair. Oregon Tradeswomen organizes the Women in Trades Fair to allow girls to try out the tools of the trade; there's no better time to encourage young women to sign up for your class. (Meanwhile, you'll also build the leadership skills and confidence of your current students as they teach younger students what they've learned.)
- ⑦ Celebrate the successes of your students in the school newspaper or newsletter and seek local media attention. Work with the journalism class or yearbook staff to document fantastic projects.
- ⑧ Offer young women information about careers in the trades. Why should young women be interested in your class if they think it's just an "elective" or a hobby class? Compare wages in the trades to other careers; be sure to include traditionally female dominated careers like child care or office work.
- ⑨ Consider having a program or "class open house" for girls only. Call on successful graduates and past students to act as mentors and to answer the questions of incoming female students.
- ⑩ Build a good relationship with your school's counseling office. Counselors should know that you offer a fantastic class and that you actively welcome young women as well as young men. Be sure the counseling staff understands the value of your class. Work with counselors to support young women taking nontraditional classes and students interested in applying for apprenticeship programs.

For more information, contact the Trades Offer Girls Options (TO GO)
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