techtrails

WiTWA
TECH [+]

If you can see her, you can be her.

Speaker Pack
2020 to 2021

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Welcome to the Speaker Information Pack

We are thrilled that you are considering joining us at an upcoming Techtrails incursion to share your experiences of using STEM skills in your career and what it takes to be successful in your industry. We really appreciate you volunteering your time to inspire the next generation to pursue new, emerging and rapidly developing careers.

This document aims to answer any questions you may have about how the day will run, the commitment required from you, and guidance on how to communicate your story.

What is the Techtrails STEM & Future Skills program?

Techtrails is an initiative of Women in Technology WA (WITWA): an in-school incursion designed to encourage high school students to consider careers in science technology, engineering, and innovation. It aims to enlighten and inspire students about the diversity and opportunities available within STEM.

Time Commitment

Our Techtrails events are full day incursions that commence at 8:30am and conclude at approximately 2:30pm. Please note that we are required to work around strict school timetables and as such ask that you allow some flexibility with these timeframes and arrive at least half an hour early to set up. You will also need to devote time to preparing your presentation ahead of time.

Time	Techtrails Program Example					
8:30 AM	Speakers arrive to set up					
8:45 AM	Students registration					
9:00 AM	WELCOME					
Group	A	B	C	D	E	F
9:34 AM	Keynote			1	4	3
10:04 AM				2	1	4
10:34 AM	BREAK					
11:03 AM	1	4	3	Keynote		
11:33 AM	2	1	4			
12:06 PM	VR			3	2	1
12:36 PM				4	3	2
1:06 AM	BREAK					
1:35 AM	3	2	1	VR		
2:05 AM	4	3	2			
2:35 AM	Evaluation and Finish					

Techtrails format

We commence the incursion with a group welcome to our participating speakers and the attending student cohort. Students will then be split into six groups to hear presentations from the various speakers and partake in the Virtual Reality activity. Each speaker (or speaker pair from the one organisation) presents their story within a 30 minute time block per group. You will share your story with each group rotation throughout the day, which will be tiring, but great fun as each student group is different.

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Your Presentation

Your presentation should ideally be informative, but succinct. The attention span for students aged 13 to 15 is limited to an average of 10 to 15 minutes. It is therefore critical your presentation is dynamic and interactive to retain their interest. Allow yourself 20 minutes for your presentation, with a further 5 minutes for Q&A from students and teachers. Be prepared to lose a few minutes at each rotation as students move from one presentation area to the next.

Audience

We work with schools to invite secondary students (in most instances year 8, 9 or 10 students), to participate in the Techtrails incursion. The number of students that participate depends on a few factors, but the number usually ranges from 120 to 150 students. Teaching staff are actively engaged in supervising students and supporting speakers at Techtrails. However please consider that you are presenting to adolescents and as such you will encounter different personalities and levels of engagement.

Some students may wish to discuss your presentation or role with you after the event as you may have triggered a path or interest for them. We would encourage you to exercise this option by staying after the event for as long as possible.

If you have any issues with the audience during the day please speak to a teacher or WiTWA member as soon as possible – we value the time that you are giving and want to ensure it is a positive experience for everyone.

How to create your presentation topic

This is the easy bit as there is no specific format. Feel free to apply your own creative style. Essentially it is all about you: it is your story. The path you took, the study, the training, the qualifications you obtained.

Some things you might like to consider sharing include:

• What does your work involve?
• We ask that you address HOW and WHY STEM skills are relevant to your career.
• Are there practical examples you can demonstrate to the students?
• What are the exciting opportunities that you see developing within your field?
• What were the key elements of your role that appealed to you?
• Why did you pursue the roles you did along the way?
• What have you found the most interesting about your roles?
• How did you get into each role (think about the steps taken etc.)
• What STEM skills do you apply every day.
• What is an exciting development that you see emerging in your industry that will be relevant to the students listening to you?

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If there isn't any real rhyme or reason to how your journey developed, or if there were a few roadblocks in the way, sharing that winding road to success is equally important! Your presentation should be informal and less "corporate" or "lecture-like" than you may be used to. We aim for these sessions to be interactive, engaging, educational, real-life and informative.

The more you can integrate a "show and tell" component, using tactile or interactive samples, models, exhibits, slides, videos or visuals, the more engaged students tend to be. Feel free to hand out samples, but we ask that you do not use this as a "sales channel" for products.

Marketing Requirements

We will ask for a recent photo and short bio from you. This must be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the date of the incursion you are taking part in. Please note that we will also provide students with your email address in the handbook they receive. If you do not wish for this to be included, please let us know.

Filming & Photography

On the day we will have a photographer/videographer on hand that will capture moments with yourself and the students. We may also ask to either film your presentation to one of the groups and/or ask that you take part in a short video interview with a WITWA representative. These images and footage will subsequently be shared via the WITWA and Techtrails websites. It may also form part of the WITWA Techtrails Digital Toolkit or a Techtrails Online learning module. If you have any concerns about being filmed or the images/video being used by WITWA please let us know as soon as possible. We may ask you to sign a media release form.

Thank you for your interest in sharing your career story and we look forward to hearing from you!

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact our Techtrails team:

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