

# College and Careers Emblem



## Your Place in the Work Place

Asking the Rangers what they want to be when they grow up can be a daunting task. They are at the age where they may be starting to formulate plans for the future, while still hanging on to their childhood.

In the Ranger Handbook there are quite a few occupations listed for the word search. Review the list with your group and try to define, as a group, what each occupation does. Some will be easy like doctor, yet the ecologist may be a bit more difficult to define.



## Help Wanted

To help the boys understand what types of jobs and careers are available, do a “Help Wanted” search in the local newspaper. Ask each boy to come up with five help wanted ads they might be interested in (if they were able to apply). Discuss what they come up with. Why this job? How much education or experience do you need? What will the job pay?

Here are a few discussion starters:

- What is the most glamorous job in the world?
- What job pays the most money?
- Would you rather be the President of the United States or the CEO of Microsoft?
- What jobs are the most fun?
- What is the “yuckiest” job in the world?
- If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?
- What is the difference between a job and a career?



Why do we need jobs? Many young people will respond that we need them in order to make money, which is correct. But we also need to teach them about other work related benefits – medical care, retirement, etc.

Choosing a career is an important decision that will shape a life. Sure, changes can be made and circumstances may alter our goals and desires, but it is important that our career choices reflect our abilities, interests and values.

## Touring a Business or Organization

Touring a business or organization is required to earn this emblem. If possible, it would be great if you and your section were able to tour a few different types of businesses. There may be people in the corps or advisory board that could assist in this area. Choose very different types of businesses or organizations to tour.

Real Estate  
Sales/Marketing  
Department Stores  
Newspaper

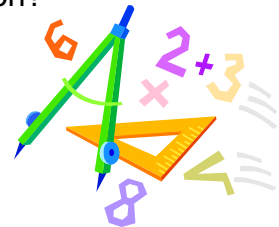
Banking  
Service Industry  
Radio or Television  
Movie Theaters

## College Opportunities

You may or may not be located near a college or university, but don't let that stop you in researching college opportunities for your young people. You can search the internet, as well as visiting a local library to find out what colleges have to offer. High schools will also have plenty of information on colleges.

There are many options, from community and technical colleges, to small private colleges and large state universities. Each has its own distinct advantages and benefits. But before a young person starts their quest, there are a few things they should consider:

- Do they want to go to college and why?
- What do they want to gain? A degree? Further education?
- What do they want to major in?
- Can they afford college?
- Are there less expensive colleges?
- Do they want to live on campus or off?
- Can they change their mind?



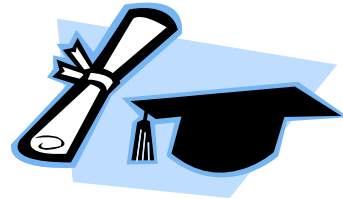
They also need to understand themselves. What are their likes or dislikes? In what type of an environment do they feel most comfortable? They may wish to consult with parents and guidance counselors, but they need to take inventory on their own personal interests, career goals, academic strengths and weaknesses and financial circumstances.

A great place to start is ***College is Possible***. This is an excellent resource produced by the Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities. Their website is [www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org) or you can reach the U.S. Department of Education's college information number at 1-800-433-3243.

Here are some key questions to ask in evaluating a college:

- What is the mission of the college and how successfully has it been accomplished?
- Where do the graduates of the institution get jobs, particularly in the major you are considering?
- What was the retention rate at the college during the past few years?
- Does the college offer a well-planned orientation program for new students?
- Does the college have a year-round program of academic advising and personal counseling for all undergraduates, including part-time and commuting students?
- Is the faculty available to give guidance to students as they consider choices for careers?
- Does the college have a program to help identify students who are having trouble and give them guidance?

Here is a brief overview of some of the typical certificates, diplomas and degrees that may be earned at a college, university or technical school:



### **Certificate or Diploma**

These non-degree offerings generally lead to employment in an occupational field. For example, to enter fields such as computer science or teaching, you may first have to get a certificate or diploma.

### **Associate Degree**

You receive an associate of arts (AA) or associate of science (AS) degree after completing two years of study similar to the first two years of a four-year college. Community colleges or four-year universities offer associate degrees. After earning an AA or an AS, you may transfer to a four-year college to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree. The associate of applied science (AAS) degree is awarded on completion of technological or vocation programs of study.

### **Bachelor's or Baccalaureate Degree**

In the United States, a college student normally receives a bachelor's degree after four years of study in a university or college. Most students specialize in a field of study called a *major subject*. Many institutions require other types of study outside a major to ensure a liberal education. There are many kinds of bachelor's degrees, but the two most common are the *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)* and the *Bachelor of Science (B.S.)*. The B.A. usually includes majors in such subjects as history, literature, and fine arts, and, in certain cases, science and mathematics. The B.S. usually includes majors in the physical and natural sciences.

## **Master's Degree**

In the United States, students who desire a master's degree must complete one or two years of advanced study beyond the bachelor's degree. Many institutions require a *thesis*, a written report of a special investigation in the student's major field. The two most common master's degrees are the *Master of Arts* and the *Master of Science*.

## **Doctor's Degree**

This is the highest earned degree in the United States, France, Germany, and many other countries. There are two distinct types of doctor's degrees. One is a professional degree required to practice in certain professions, such as medicine. The other is a research degree that indicates the candidate has acquired mastery of a broad field of knowledge and the technique of scholarly research.

## **Honorary Degrees**

Many award honorary degrees to people for achievement in their chosen fields. Chief among these are the *Doctor of Letters* and the *Doctor of Laws*. These are given to prominent authors, scholars, and leaders in the professions, business, government, and industry.

Douglas Sloan, "Degree, College," *World Book Online Americas Edition*,  
<http://www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/ar/?/na/ar/co/ar152480.htm>

## **Teacher Certification**

At some schools, you can receive a teacher certification by completing bachelor's degree and state certification requirements. A college adviser can help prepare a plan of study to meet these twin demands. All institutions that prepare teachers are accredited by the state; each state sets its own certificate standards.

A program leading to teacher certification typically involves three types of courses:

- General liberal arts courses.
- The major (such as elementary education or mathematics).
- Professional education courses, including student teaching.

In order to gain certification in most states, you must pass an achievement test in the field in which you plan to teach.

**Website - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)**

- This site can do a college search based on preferences or on a specific school.
- It can also do side by side comparisons of up to 3 schools.
- The site provides tips for planning for college as well as paying for it.
- It has tips on how to write a winning application.
- You may sign up for free and gain access to additional features such as saving your searches, taking mini-SAT's and registering for the SAT.

**Social Security**

Social security is a government program that helps workers and retired workers and their families achieve a degree of economic security. Social security, also called *social insurance*, provides cash payments to help replace income lost as a result of retirement, unemployment, disability, or death.

The social security program in the United States has three main parts. They are (1) old-age, survivors, disability, and hospital insurance (OASDHI), usually referred to as Social Security, with two capital letters; (2) unemployment insurance; and (3) workers' compensation.

About one-sixth of the people in the United States receive Social Security benefits. People become eligible for benefits by working a certain period in a job covered by Social Security. Employers and workers finance the program through payroll taxes. Participation in Social Security is required for almost all U.S. workers.

Social security differs from *public assistance*. Social security pays benefits to individuals—and their families—largely on the basis of work histories. Public assistance, also called *welfare*, aids the poor largely on the basis of need.

Alicia Haydock Munnell, "Social security," *World Book Online Americas Edition*,  
<http://www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/ar/?/na/ar/co/ar517520.htm>

**Income Tax**

Income tax is a tax on the earnings of individuals and corporations. Nearly all nations levy income taxes to pay for their government programs. Such taxes may be levied by the federal government, state or provincial governments, and even some local governments.

Most individuals and corporations in the United States must pay federal income taxes. Some individuals and businesses do not have to pay income taxes or are taxed at special rates. For example, a person may earn so little money that he or she has no taxable income. Such nonprofit groups as charitable organizations and churches may pay no income tax or be taxed at low rates. Special tax rules are also applied to the income of banks, insurance companies, and some other corporations.

Joel Slemrod, "Income tax," *World Book Online Americas Edition*,  
<http://www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/ar/?/na/ar/co/ar274060.htm>

## **Exemption**

An amount (\$2,800 for 2000) allowed by law as a reduction of income that would otherwise be taxed. There are two kinds of exemptions: personal and dependency.

## **FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act)**

The law that provides for social security and Medicare benefits. This program is financed by payroll taxes imposed on the employer and the employee. For 2000, the employer is required to withhold 1.45 percent from each employee's gross wages for Medicare tax and 6.2 percent of each employee's wages up to \$76,200 for social security tax.

## **Audit**

The IRS examines and verifies a taxpayer's return or other transactions with tax consequences. An office audit is an audit by the IRS that is conducted in the agent's office. A field audit is conducted by the IRS on the business premises of the taxpayer or in the office of the tax practitioner representing the taxpayer.

## **Devotionals**

### **Treasures in Heaven – Matthew 6:19-24**

In this emblem we have spoken a lot about planning for the future – preparing for college. We have also touched upon saving money for college because that can cost a lot of money. Many of you may know about savings accounts, where you put money into the bank to save it for a later date (special purchase, saving for school, etc.).

We have also talked about careers and getting jobs to do what? Make money. What do people do with their money? Is it really that important? How do people get “carried away” with the money they earn? Sometimes it gets wasted – how do we waste money? Let's read Matthew 6:19-24 and see what God has to say about money. *Read the verses then discuss what they mean. Close in prayer.*

## **Christ's Work Model**

Read the following references and discuss with the group how they relate to the jobs we do and how we should treat others.

- Matthew 20:28 – Son of Man came to serve.
- Luke 22:27 – The served or the server?
- John 13:4-5 – Foot washing.
- Philippians 2:7 – Nature of a servant.

## **Choices - Luke 15:11-31**

When we begin to consider what college we want to attend or what career path we wish to enter, we are faced with many choices. Where should I go? What should I major in? Do I want to go to college far away from home? Can I afford college? Which college will teach me what I need to know for the job I want? In all these instances we are faced with choices.

Listen to what happened to a young man in the Bible and the choices he made. Read Luke 15:11-31 (the Prodigal Son). What choices did this young man make? Were they good choices? Did the choices honor God? What happened when he returned home? God will not abandon us, He loves us, but He wants us to make wise choices.

## **A Blind Man's Success! - John 9**

What will give you satisfaction as being successful? Will it be a fat salary or a well-respected reputation? Having the best car and the most beautiful girlfriend or wife? A huge house with a swimming pool?

Let's look at an example of success in an unlikely person, a blind man. In John chapter 9, we read where Jesus takes a down-and-out blind beggar and gives him sight. This is a new man, with a whole new life ahead of him! Read John Chapter 9 (or at least paraphrase). What did the people say to the "former" blind man? Something like this: *"You look familiar, but the guy we knew who looked like you was blind," the people said. "It's me, for sure," he answers. "Well, wait a minute," the people respond. "How did you get to be able to see?" "You see, Jesus did it all..." answers the former blind man.*

Notice that all his success starts with Jesus. He gave no opinion of himself or of anything he had done or anyone but Jesus. Jesus was the reason for the miracle, and it's Jesus who gets the credit. THAT is success for the Christian. It's Jesus first and foremost. As we start to consider colleges and careers, make sure that you remember that Christ is the reason behind all our successes and achievements.