



Teen Preparation and Reflection Sessions



TIME
60 minutes



SIZE
20
Standard Version
10-50
Stand-Alone Event



HANDOUTS
Personal Profile Form Page 56
Sample Budget Tracking Form Page 57
Budget Tracking Form Page 58

Teen Personal Finance Guide:

None

Supplies Needed:

- Pens or pencils for each teen
- Copies for each teen of “Number of Children Drawing Cards and the Marital Status Drawing Cards” (Found in Section Six p.)
- A copy of “Salary and Tax Summary” (Found in Section Eight: Materials for Individual Stations-Careers and Salaries p.)
- Calculators or devices with calculators (Optional)

Links to Resources

- None

Social-emotional Skills

- Goal-Setting
- Planning

Financial Literacy Skills

- Money Management

Session One: Reality Store Planning

Session Objective: Teens and facilitators will prepare for a successful Reality Store experience.

Preparation

- Print copies for each teen of the Personal Profile Form and Budget Tracking Form
- Print copies for each teen of the Number of Children and Marital Status Drawing Cards
- Print copies for each teen of the Salary and Tax Summary

Warm Welcome: (2 minutes)

Greet teens by name as they enter. Engage in meaningful conversation.

Community Builder: You Just Wanna Be Cool (5 minutes)

Tell teens to consider their life when they were 7 years old

- **Say**, “What was trendy or cool when you were 7 years old? I’m sure you thought stickers were cool. You would do anything to get a sticker of your favorite character. Teachers, caregivers, or other adults may have rewarded you with stickers for a job well done.”
- **Say**, “When I yell GO, but not before think of something you thought was cool in the 2nd grade. Find a partner who has something similar and stand shoulder to shoulder with them.”
- **Shout**, “GO!”
- **Allow** teens to find their partners.
- **Say**, “Now, I want you to think about what will be cool when you are 28. This is a time when you may have begun your career, married a spouse, and started a family.”
- **Ask**, “What will be cool at that time in your life? I’m sure you will not want to be rewarded with stickers for your work. What types of things will you want to work hard for?”
- **Direct** teens to discuss with a partner for 1 minute.
- **Select** 2-3 pairs to share their responses.

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Group Agreements Review: (2 minutes)**STANDARD VERSION**

Reference the Group Agreements for this program or your program area to remind youth of their commitment to one another. Use the following prompts to review the Agreements with your group:

- **Ask**, “Does everyone commit to our Agreements today?”
- **Ask**, “Is there anything we need to add?”
 - › Youth who joined after the Group Agreements can add their ideas or sign the Agreements.

STAND-ALONE EVENT

Create group agreements for how teens should treat each other while playing Reality Store. Reference your Club and Youth Center agreements and allow teens to add to this list. After you have created a list with the teens:

- **Ask**, “Does everyone commit to our Agreements today?”
- **Ask**, “Is there anything we need to add?”
 - › Youth who joined after the Group Agreements can add their ideas or sign the Agreements.

Main Activity: Reality Store Preparation (35 minutes)**Introducing Teens to the Activity**

- **Say**, “Today we are going to prepare for the fun and interactive simulation called Reality Store. Reality Store leaps into the future and dives into your life when you are 28 years old and at the end of this session I will tell you the dates, times and locations of the upcoming Reality Store.”
- **Say**, “You will manage financial decisions for your family and will be given a marital status of married or single.”
- **Say**, “Single just means that you are not married. You can be dating, engaged to be married, in a serious relationship, divorced, or widowed and still have a marital status of single.”
- **Say**, “You will also be given a number of children. Children have to be taken into account when talking about your financial lives.”
- **Say**, “You will then select a career. “

STANDARD VERSION

- **Remind** teens, “Just like we saw in Unit 2, every career has certain salary ranges.”
- **Say**, “At the Reality Store event you will have to opportunity to see how your decisions affect your future lifestyle.”

Key Terms

- **Marital Status:** a person’s state of being married, single, divorced, or widowed.
- **Budget Tracking Form:** A place to track income and spending and see the balance of an account.
- **Living Expenses:** everyday purchases that can be expected, include housing, groceries, transportation, insurance, utilities, clothing, medical and wants.

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1**Step-by-Step Directions****Step 1: Personal Profile Form**

- **Pass** out the Personal Profile Form.
- **Direct** teens to write their name on their Personal Profile.
- **Tell** teens to select a career that interests them and then write the career on the Occupation (Career) line.

STANDARD VERSION

- **Instruct** teens to refer to their “What Do I Need For My Career Goals?” they completed in Unit 2, Session 1 in their teen personal finance guide if they need help thinking about careers that interest them.
- **Say** “You will draw a number between 1 and 2 to determine your marital status.”
 - › 1 = married
 - › 2 = single
- **Say** “If you are married, please circle married. If you are single, circle single.”
- **Allow** teens to draw their number.

2**Step 2: Children**

- **Say**, “You will now draw from another set of cards for the number of children you will have. You can make-up their ages from 1-8 years old. Remember in this activity you are 28.”
- **Say**, “Remember the number of children that you select for the game is random. Although you may have already considered the number of children that you want when you get older, one of the realities of life is that you may have more or fewer children than planned.”
- **Say**, “This may be the first unexpected surprise that you get in Reality Store!”
- **Allow** teens to draw their card.
- **Direct** teens to circle their “Number of Children” and select their ages.

3**Step 3: Salary**

- **Say** “You will now be given your annual salary, monthly salary, taxes and net salary.”
- **Say** “If you are married, please decide now if your spouse works or not. Remember if your spouse works you will have different income and costs for things in Reality Store.”
- **Look up** each teen’s chosen career and degree on the Salary and Tax Summary and give to teens.
- **Select** 1-3 teens to serve as leaders as needed to help with looking-up salary information for the group.

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- **Direct** teens to record their degree level, annual and monthly salaries, taxes and net salary for themselves and their spouse if applicable.

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Step 4: Budget Tracking Form

- **Pass** out copies of the Sample Budget Tracking Form.
- **Say**, “I’m going to show you how to track your expenses and savings with this Sample Budget Tracking Form.”
- **Say**, “This is a sample of the Budget Tracking Form that you will be using during your Reality Store experience.”

STANDARD VERSION

- We’ve learned in Unit 1 that a budget helps us track our spending and saving.”
- **Say**, “The first part of the form is your checking account, this is where you will record all of your payments and deposits.”
- **Say**, “The first column is the name of the station that you visit. You have to visit every station during your experience. You also may be asked to visit specific stations to make purchases after you visit the Life’s Unexpected Station. Most of the stations require you to make a purchase. Other stations in the game have optional purchases that you can choose to make if you like.”
- **Say**, “As you can see the first station Skyler visited was the Banking and Investing Station.”
- **Say**, “The payment column is where you subtract your expenses and the deposit column is where you add any income. Skyler deposited a paycheck.”
- **Say**, “Every time you make a new transaction you will update the balance column. This will keep track of the total amount of money you have available after either subtracting or adding income.”
- **Say**, “You can see that Skyler deposited a paycheck but subtracted expenses such as student loans, investing and housing. The balance column was updated after each financial activity.”
- **Say**, “For the manager’s initial column you have to get each Station Manager to initial your form for every station that you visited. This is required for every station even if you don’t make a purchase.”
- **Say**, “On the bottom of the form is your Savings Account. You will use this to deposit money for your short-term savings that you may need while playing Reality Store, and long-term savings like investing where you won’t spend that money and you can see it grow.”
- **Say**, “The \$542 subtracted from Skyler’s checking account was also added to the savings account balance. You will keep track of how much you have saved in your savings account.”
- **Say**, “Skyler used the 50/30/20 rule of spending.”

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STANDARD VERSION

- **Ask**, “Who remembers the 50/30/20 rule of spending from Unit 1?”
- **Call** on a volunteer to respond and acknowledge their answer.
- **Say**, “The 50/30/20 rule is where you spend 50% of your net income on needs, 30% on wants and 20% on savings.”
- **Say**, “When saving ideally you want to save 10% for short-term savings and emergencies that you can use in the near future and the other 10% for long-term savings that you can use when you get older, such as for retirement.”
- **Say**, “You can see that Skyler put 10% of their income into short-term savings and approximately 10% into long-term savings in the investment portfolio section”.
- **Say**, “In the game you will have the opportunity to invest some of your income into long-term savings by selecting an investment portfolio. You’ll get the chance to see how your money grows after 20 years at the end of the game if you were to keep up with this long-term saving strategy up every month.”
- **Say**, “At the end of the game you will record the amount of your investment portfolio in the ‘nest egg amount’.”
- **Say**, “There is also a place to write down the name of any charities you donate to, which you will have an opportunity to choose in the game.”
- **Ask** teens if they have any questions about the Budget Tracking Form
- **Pass** out the individual Budget Tracking Forms for teens to complete.
- **Say**, “We will record your first deposit into your Budget Tracking Form on the first line Banking and Investing -Deposit of Net Salary. This is your first paycheck, which is your net, or take home salary for one month.”
- **Say**, “In the balance column, write your net monthly salary again because this is your balance that you will start with when you play Reality Store.”
- **Say**, “Please leave the manager initials column blank.”
 - › **Allow** teens time to complete their sections of the form.
 - › **Check** to see that all teens have completed their Personal Profile Forms and completed their first line on their Budget Tracking Form correctly.
 - › **Make** sure every teen writes their name on each of their forms.

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