

ONE DAY (YOUTH FUTURES) PROJECT OUTLINE

Objective:

To create meaningful career exploration opportunities for high school students through a one-day work experience program, while fostering collective action and supporting peace-related initiatives.

Project Outline:

Step 1: Business and Industry Engagement

Local businesses and industries are invited to participate by offering high school students a one-day work experience. This initiative allows young people to explore various career pathways they might not otherwise have access to, ranging from healthcare, finance, and small businesses to creative arts and unique vocations. In addition to providing students with invaluable exposure, participating businesses can position themselves as potential future employers and benefit from increased visibility among the next generation of talent. This experience also helps youth discover career opportunities beyond those familiar to their families or communities, while offering businesses the chance to engage with young talent in meaningful ways.

Step 2: Coordination and Scheduling

After businesses and schools sign up to participate, they will indicate their preferences for student placements. The work experience day could align with a significant date, such as International Youth Day (August 12), to highlight its broader impact.

Step 3: Student Participation and Funding Allocation

Each participating student will receive a \$50 stipend, with \$25 allocated for transportation and meals. The remaining \$25 will be pooled into a collective fund. At the end of the day, all participants will vote on how to allocate the funds, with a focus on supporting peacebuilding initiatives. Three potential projects will be presented for consideration, offering an educational opportunity to learn about the breadth of work within the peacebuilding sector. These projects could be local (Aotearoa New Zealand) or regional, and if the fund is substantial, it may be divided to support both national and international efforts.

Step 4: Project Implementation and Engagement

Once the peace-related project is selected and funded, a small delegation of students will visit the project to meet beneficiaries and witness the impact of their collective contribution. This experience will be shared through media coverage, amplifying the message of youth empowerment and collective action.

Key Benefits:

For Students:

- Exposure to diverse career opportunities, expanding their understanding of potential future employment.
- Hands-on experience in collective decision-making and social impact.
- Leadership and advocacy opportunities, particularly through student-led media initiatives to promote the project.

For Businesses:

- Demonstrate commitment to youth development and the local community by engaging with the next generation of talent.
- Benefit from the opportunity to showcase their organization to future potential employees.
- Consider using a “Positive Youth Engagement” badge or recognition to highlight participation.
- Opportunities for sponsorship and positive public relations through association with youth-focused and peacebuilding initiatives.

For Rotary:

- Rotary members can directly involve their businesses and industries in the program.
- This initiative offers a platform to promote Rotary’s global and local peacebuilding efforts through the IEP positive peace network.
- Rotary clubs can recommend peace-related projects, further showcasing Rotary’s connection to local and international communities.