

IGNITE Speaker Preparation Instructions

How to prepare as a Volunteer for this event...

The most powerful part of any IGNITE event is the time that our volunteers get to share their story with our students. Whether it's a programming workshop, a company tour, or IGNITE Presentation at the schools, the time for the girls to interact with you is an invaluable experience.

It's a time where girls get to learn about you, why you chose the path you did, how you got where you are today and to relate with them that you were once their age and understand they may be uncertain of choices they can make. We all need some kind of mentoring at one time or another, and in IGNITE, this is our time to showcase who you, your story, and how it has made a difference in your life.

We are all taught to find our passion in life. For many of these students, the IGNITE events are the first time they have ever heard what women in technology do, or what an engineer is. It is also their first time to truly understand the breadth of career choices in technology beyond the stereotype programmer, such as technical writing, program management, testing and design careers. It is urgent that we take this time to help them learn about these careers, so they may understand what is available in STEM careers, that there is a career for every interest, and from there they can have the choice to find their passion in STEM.

Over lunch, each volunteer will have 3-5 minutes to tell their story. Focus on the following topics for your time:

- What did you like to do as a girl when you were age 13-18?
- What were your hobbies then? What are your hobbies now?
- How did you find your interest in technology or engineering?
- What obstacles did you have to overcome to get to where you are today?
(Please feel free to share your real story if you can. The girls will be able to relate to someone, and someone's struggles, to show them that we all must overcome some obstacle in our lives to get where we want to go.)
- What is your career and what do you like about your career now?
- Why would you encourage girls to consider going into technology or engineering careers?
- What type of education choices did you make to lead you to your career, if any?
- Why did you want to be here today?

At IGNITE, we believe the girls can help the world in many ways by choosing a STEM career. Preparing for this starts now, at the middle school and high school levels. That is why it's important that we make an impression on them now that will stay with them as they continue to make choices in education and future careers.

Thank you for participating in this life changing program and for volunteering with IGNITE. Over the years people like you have changed many girls' lives by hearing the stories and experiences that made the women of this world who they are today.

It is optional to bring a powerpoint presentation to these events. They are most welcome and we will make arrangements for you to show your ppt if you make one. Please just let us know.

Thank you!

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