

SAMPLE HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Preparing a hands-on workshop for girls who attend EYH Conferences can be a difficult task. It is made more difficult by not knowing what a “hands-on” activity really is, and not having experience teaching young women. The following sample hands-on workshops are designed to assist you with your preparation.

Workshop title: Something Fishy **Career: Marine Biology**

Supplies: marking pens; 11” x 17” yellow and gray colored paper; pencils; masking tape; plastic probes; 1 whole fish 2 per students; worksheets; career information sheets and follow-up activity.

I. Introduction and Career Definition: “Hello, my name is Dr. Karen Fisher and I am a Marine Biologist. I am here today to show you some things I do as part of my job.

I would like you to talk with the person sitting next to you about two things. Number one is a definition of a marine biologist that you both agree with. Please write your definition on the gray sheet of paper. Number two is to list three things you think a marine biologist does. Write these three things on the yellow sheet of paper. We will have a few minutes for this discussion.

II. Collecting information: “I would like your attention now, please. Would one of you please bring your definition to this wall and tape it up with masking tape. The other person, please take your list of three tasks to that wall, and tape them up.

III. Using information: “Let’s look at these definitions of a marine biologist. I see many of you have a pretty clear definition of what the term ‘marine biologist’ means. It is, in fact, someone who studies plants and animals from the sea.

Now let’s look at the things you think a marine biologist does. This is a pretty good list. I do some of these things, like [points to examples from the lists]. I also [continues with list of things that she does on her job].”

IV. Hands-on activity: “Now that you know some of the things I do as a marine biologist, let do something that is part of my work.

In front of each pair of you is a whole fish in a tray, a plastic probe and a worksheet. The worksheets contain questions like how many fins are on the fish? Where are the eyes located? Where is the mouth located? What kind of teeth are in the mouth? Each group has a different kind of fish, and all of these fish can be found at the local fish markets.

This is what you will do for the next 25 minutes. Please look at the worksheets. These worksheets are to be used to record information about your fish, and using the observations about your fish, to describe the habitat of your fish, the place where it lives. At the end of the 25 minutes, we will discuss your observations and conclusions.