

# Pathways to Public Service:

## MATCHING PERSONAL INTERESTS TO LOCAL AGENCY CAREERS

The table below can help frame job and career opportunities in local public agencies and public service in a way that young people can easily relate to and understand. This table can be used as a handout and as the basis for a discussion with youth about the options suited to an individual's various interests, talents and abilities. The next steps may be for youth to discuss these roles with staff members with local cities, counties or special districts. Local agency staff may also visit the classroom to share about their pathway to public service.

| If you enjoy or are interested in:                         | You might like working in this area:   |
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| <b>Helping people solve problems and find solutions</b>    | Community development<br>Economic development<br>Elected leader's office staff<br>Housing<br>Human resources<br>Human services<br>Law enforcement<br>Management or administration<br>Neighborhood services |
| <b>Operating heavy machinery</b>                           | Fleet maintenance<br>Parks and recreation<br>Public works or engineering<br>Urban forestry   |
| <b>Managing money and investments</b>                      | Accounting or finance<br>Auditing<br>Budget operations<br>Revenue services   |
| <b>Crime-solving and crime investigation</b>               | City Attorney's or County Counsel's Office<br>Criminal justice<br>Coroner's Office<br>Law enforcement  |
| <b>Repairing and maintaining cars, trucks and vehicles</b> | Fleet maintenance and services<br>Public works or engineering<br>Transportation or transit   |
| <b>Solving complicated math problems</b>                   | Accounting or financial management<br>City or County Clerk's Office<br>Information Technology services   |
| <b>Extreme sports</b>                                      | Emergency services<br>Firefighting<br>Recreation   |
| <b>Working with computers</b>                              | Geographic Information Services (GIS)<br>Information Technology  |
| <b>Gardening</b>   | Landscaping or parks maintenance   |

| If you enjoy or are interested in:  | You might like working in this area:   |
|---|--|
| <b>Working with children and young people</b>   | Community services<br>Health services<br>Library services<br>Parks and Recreation<br>Social services<br>Teaching<br>Volunteer services   |
| <b>Writing articles and working with the media</b>  | Public Information Office  |
| <b>How communities, facilities and buildings (such as parks, schools, libraries and cities) are planned, designed and built</b> | Engineering and construction<br>Geographic Information Services (GIS)<br>Law enforcement (Crime Prevention through Design)<br>Landscape Architecture<br>Parks and Recreation<br>Planning Department or Building Department |
| <b>Doing research</b>   | Administrative office staff<br>City Attorney's Office<br>County Counsel's Office<br>District Attorney's Office<br>Elected leader's office staff<br>Law enforcement   |
| <b>Driving a truck or bus</b>   | Parks and Recreation<br>Public Works<br>Transportation or Transit  |
| <b>Elections and how they work</b>  | City or County Clerk's Office<br>City Attorney's Office<br>County Counsel's Office<br>Elected leader's office staff  |
| <b>Website design and maintenance</b>   | Geographic Information Systems (GIS)<br>Information Technology Services<br>Library Services<br>Public Information Office   |
| <b>Traffic systems and how traffic is managed</b>   | Geographic Information Systems (GIS)<br>Public Works   |
| <b>Alternative fuel vehicles</b>  | Fleet management   |
| <b>Renewable energy and energy efficiency</b>   | Facility Construction<br>Planning and Building Departments   |
| <b>Environmental protection and sustainability</b>  | Planning and Building Departments  |
| <b>Being outdoors</b>   | Community Services<br>Parks and Recreation<br>Physical Education<br>Public Works   |

| If you enjoy or are interested in:                           | You might like working in this area:  |
|--|---|
| <b>Working with adults, seniors and the aging population</b> | Community Services<br>Health and Human Services<br>Library Services<br>Parks and Recreation   |
| <b>Preparing for emergencies</b>                             | Elected leader's office<br>Geographic Information Services (GIS)<br>Human Resources<br>Manager's or Chief Administrator's Office<br>Planning Department<br>Public Works |
| <b>Landscape design and maintenance</b>                      | Community Services<br>Grounds and Facilities<br>Parks<br>Public Works   |
| <b>Medical issues and health care</b>                        | County hospitals<br>Health services   |
| <b>Management and general administration</b>                 | Manager's or Chief Administrator's Office   |
| <b>Nature, natural resources and the environment</b>         | Parks<br>Planning Department<br>Public Works  |
| <b>Energy efficiency</b>                                     | Planning Department<br>Public Works<br>Utility Department or District   |
| <b>Water</b>   | Environmental Health<br>Public Works<br>Utility Department or Utility District  |
| <b>Recycling and solid waste</b>                             | Public Works<br>Engineering<br>Environmental Health   |
| <b>Working with animals</b>                                  | Animal care services<br>Animal control<br>Law enforcement (K9, Mounted Patrol)<br>Public Works  |
| <b>Working with people with special needs</b>                | Adaptive Services<br>Health and Human Services<br>Human Resources<br>Library Services<br>Parks and Recreation<br>School Construction                                    |
| <b>Food Services and Nutrition</b>                           | County Health Offices<br>Health and Human Services<br>Parks and Recreation<br>School Facilities   |