

LANDSCAPE CAREER DAY IDEAS FOR INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES



Browse the list below for ideas to get you started with planning interactive experiences for Landscape Career Day. Whether you are doing a community service project, talking with a class or community organization, or hosting an event at your office, an interactive, hands-on component for participants will allow them to gain a better connection with the work you do. Think about your objectives with the event, the ages of your participants and what will allow you to showcase the profession in ways that are interactive, memorable, and fun!



- 1. Landscape “design” activity:** Help participants place plants of various sizes, shapes, textures and colors into a simple landscape design. Give them some guidance with illustrations of appropriate placement (i.e., tall in back, medium in center, small in front) and use this opportunity to talk about different kinds of plants, the value of native plants, what plants need to thrive, etc. Consider breaking your participants into teams to compete to see who can place the plants correctly first.
- 2. Paver installation race:** Show participants paver patterns and challenge them to lay provided pavers within large square grids to create a particular pattern. Make it a competition and have them race against other teams.
- 3. Log-balancing activity:** Lay logs (or landscape timbers) on the ground. Strap participants into a tree-climber harness (hung from a Spiderlift) and have volunteers help participants walk the log.
- 4. Tree-climber simulation:** Participants can be strapped into a tree-climber harness to “climb,” simulating the work of a tree climber.
- 5. Sports-related activities:** Show the industry’s work in sports field management. Have participants play on putting greens, mini-bocci courts, etc. Talk about the important work that goes into turf to best support athletes.

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6. Edible gardening demonstration: Display herbs and other edibles with sensory (touch/feel/smell) benefits in a tower garden, vertical wall and on tables. Help participants create their own edible gardens.

7. Battery-powered equipment showcase: Equipment displays are always a big draw. Consider displaying blowers and mowers with the battery packs, and other equipment for the perfect photo opportunity! Depending on the age of your participants, consider allowing them to use the blowers under supervision.

8. Sustainability in action: Help participants create rain catchment barrels (if permitted in your area), conduct a workshop on composting (show examples of what materials work best composting), or activities associated with protecting water resources. ([PBS Kids](#) has some great water filtration exercises). Use these opportunities to showcase the profession's commitment to the environment.

9. Help youth earn a Scout badge: Boy Scouts can earn badges for landscape architecture, entrepreneurship, environmental science, gardening, soil and water conservation, and sustainability. Girl Scouts can earn badges about flowers, gardening, and trees. Plan a workshop with local troops to help them earn one or more of these badges. Learn more about the requirements for Boy Scouts [here](#) and Girl Scouts [here](#).

10. Use ready-to-go resources from Turf Mutt: The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute has a variety of activity plans to help students grades K-5 explore outdoor living landscapes. [Check them out](#) to see what fun you can offer for future landscape professionals.

