

# Planning Guide: Summer Camps



## What is it?

Summer manufacturing camps give manufacturers and local leaders an opportunity to help shape the future of children in their communities while also building and promoting the economy. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown's office has built a summer manufacturing camp model that serves as a best practice for organizing a successful and effective event at the manufacturer level.

The ultimate goal of these camps is to give kids and their parents a real-world understanding of American manufacturing today, and the careers and opportunities available to them.

## How to Get Started

Visit **Sherrod Brown's website** for guidance and coverage of the latest Manufacturing Summer Camp series. This website also lists by county any endorsed summer manufacturing camps that already exist. Also engage with your Industry Sector Partnership and/or community organizations that you may want to partner with or who have an already established summer camp that you would like to plug into.

## Know Your Audience

Camps are typically targeted to youth ages 9-14. These middle school years are when children can be reached and taught to think differently about manufacturing through exposing them to modern facilities and processes.

- Type of Education Institution
  - Familiarize yourself with different types of education environments like traditional K-12 schools, career and technical education schools, and STEM schools.
- Grade-Level Guidance
  - Work with community partners or educators for grade-level messaging, length and style of presentation, and whether hands-on activities would be appropriate.

# When Should I Engage?

Begin planning for manufacturing summer camps as early as the beginning of the school year in the fall prior by researching what summer manufacturing camps and community organizations involved in them already exist. Then evaluate whether you want to partner with an existing one or organize one of your own.



## What Action Steps Can I Take?

**Note the requirements for Sherrod Brown manufacturing camps:**

**Students should primarily visit businesses that make something tangible.**

The camps should promote and educate students about our manufacturing sector.

**All students are eligible.**

Registration is open to all, and no student is turned away if slots are still available. If tuition is charged, scholarships must be available for families who cannot afford to pay. Please check with manufacturers to determine their ability to accommodate a person with a disability at their facility.

**Meals are served to all students.**

All students will receive a lunch, and depending on the camp hours, snacks and breakfast.

**T-shirts or other memorabilia for the students must be American-made.**

# What Partners Can Help?

- Senator Brown's Office
- Your local Industry Sector Partnership
- Chambers of Commerce
- Local Universities, Community Colleges or Career/Tech Center
- YMCA or organization (recruiting, child care, curriculum development, etc.)
- Local schools (for recruiting, transportation, mentors, hands-on activities)
- Local manufacturers
- Other local businesses (for meals, supplies, funding assistance)



## How Can I Measure Results?

Manufacturers and their partner organizations may choose to have students complete a pre- and/or post-camp assessment of their overall satisfaction, level of interest in manufacturing careers, impressions of manufacturing careers, and understanding of science and mathematics.

Parents may also be given a similar survey focused on their impression of manufacturing as a career choice for their child and overall satisfaction with the camp.

