

Science speakers

Meteorology

Purpose of the program

The purpose of this program is to help children connect their science curriculum to interests and careers and to stimulate their curiosity. We wish to awaken children to the wide variety of jobs that people do and help them understand the necessity of a good education to getting the jobs. By illustrating how basic science concepts are used in their work, speakers show how science is fundamental to daily life.

Meteorology intersects with the second grade and fifth grade science curriculum. Below are content points and a general outline to help you structure your talk.

Reminders

Plan your presentation to run about 20 minutes. Then give the children 5-10 minutes for questions.

Children love to see examples; it helps them remember and understand. Any items you can show them and demonstrate will impress and delight them.

Please arrive at the school office at least 10 minutes before you are scheduled to speak.

Call **Mary Goljenboom** at United Way of Lake County with questions: **847 775 1058**.

What the children are learning

Second graders (age 7) study air and weather. They learn to observe and record changes in the weather over time. The science content includes the following points:

- Temperature, precipitation, and cloud types are components of the weather that can be described.
- A meteorologist uses instruments to monitor air and weather conditions.
- Wind speed and wind direction are components of weather that can be described using anemometers and wind vanes. Wind scales are tools used to describe the speed of the wind.
- Each season has a typical weather pattern that can be observed, compared, and predicted.

What you could say

Define your job. For example, *A meteorologist is a scientist who studies weather. A meteorologist collects data gathered by instruments and observations on the ground and in space. A meteorologist prepares forecasts so people know what kind of weather to expect.*

Please tell the children about the duties and responsibilities of your job. Please also tell them some of the things that you enjoy about it. As you explain and/or demonstrate, please remind the children of some of the science points above. You do **not** need to refer to all of them.

Please tell the children what kind of education is needed to do the job and how you got interested in this work.

What the children are learning

Fifth graders (age 10) study models and designs. They will learn to design and construct conceptual and physical models. The science content includes the following points:

- Scientists develop models to explain how systems work.
- A model is a representation or explanation of a system or interaction that cannot be observed directly.
- Conceptual models can be communicated through words and drawings.

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What you could say

Define your job. For example, *A meteorologist is a scientist who studies weather. A meteorologist collects data gathered by instruments and observations on the ground and in space and uses it to prepare weather forecasts.*

Explain to the children how the science they are learning is used in your job. For example, *A meteorologist creates weather maps to display the collected data and forecast the weather. These maps are conceptual models.*

Please tell the children about the duties and responsibilities of your job. Please also tell them some of the things that you enjoy about it. As you explain and/or demonstrate, please remind the children of some of the science points above. You do **not** need to refer to all of them.

Please tell the children what kind of education is needed to do the job and how you got interested in this work.