



# “Made in Florida” Tour Tips for Manufacturers

## Before the “Made in Florida” Tour

- Ask the teacher(s) if there are specific concepts, curriculum or STEM topics that your team should point out to students during the tour
- Choose tour guides that speak loudly and clearly and are comfortable with students
- Give students an overview of your facility, safety, products, processes & personnel at their level
- Divide the larger group of students into smaller groups of 5-7 students with separate tour guides
- Decide how the tour guides will travel through the facility for the best possible experience for the students
- Provide dress code, identification and behavior codes to the teachers and tour guides

## During the “Made in Florida” Tour

- Ensure that tour guides place value on all careers within the company (technician, engineers, designers, etc.)
- Encourage the tour guides to speak loudly as they explain portions of the tour
- Encourage the students to gather in close (especially in louder environments) so that the students can remain engaged with the tour
- Have some sample items and/or parts to show the students that will help the students connect what they are learning in school to the products and processes shown. Pass them around for students to touch, examine.
- Make the tour relevant to students - if the product is not something they personally use, perhaps identify an analogous product
- Have station displays set up as “stops” on the tour and have workers tell students what they do in that section
- Provide some hands-on activity that students can try if possible (possibly in a training room)
- Ask students questions about your product such as:
  - Could we make this out of another material, why or why not?
  - What effect would a change in size/tolerance have on the product?
  - Explore the careers/pathways for this industry. What kind of education is needed? What STEM subject background prepares a student for these careers? How much money can employees make (especially important for high school students)?

## After the “Made in Florida” Tour

- Often the tour staff will have a question and answer session with the group of students during lunch
- Giveaways from the manufacturing host are always popular
- Decide with the tour coordinator how student surveys will be collected and sent to FLATE
- Encourage the students to continue their exploration into careers in advanced manufacturing
- Encourage your team members to fill out the online survey sent to you from FLATE
- Decide what went well and what could have gone better regarding the tour for continuous improvements
- Respond to FLATE tour host survey

