

HALLOWEEN HINTS

Kids Dress for Their Future Success

(NAPSA)—“What are you going to be for Halloween?” For kids it’s the perennial October dilemma. And for parents, it’s the challenge of actually finding or making the costume.

This year elementary schools across the country are making the costume decision easier. Instead of the usual ghosts and goblins, students will be dressing up as an adult leader or professional they admire as part of the *What I Want to Be When I Grow Up* initiative. This will give kids the opportunity to think about their future and choose an occupation for their Halloween costume.

Of course, the question remains: what’s the costume? Last year, a child who dressed as Oprah took down names for prospective interviews; a future lawyer handed out business cards to his classmates and teacher.

Now parents can talk with kids about their dream job and try to find simple household items to use as props. For example, briefcases, hard hats, badges, and first aid kits can easily transform a child into a businessperson, construction worker, police officer or doctor for a day.

What I Want to Be When I Grow Up was first pioneered in Louisiana in 1998 by the Cajun Heartland School-to-Work partnership. According to Debbie

The right costume may help a child get a feel for a particular profession.

Costume

Khaki shorts, binoculars, spade and map

Microphone, clip board, pointer

Snorkel, fins and bathing suit, jar for specimens

Camera, newspaper, notepad and pen

Sunglasses, compass, parachute, survival/camping gear

T-square, drafting pencil & paper, measuring tape

First-aid kit, thermometer, road map

Baking pan, apron, whisk or rolling pin

Laptop computer, computer instruction manual, art supplies

Fabric, sewing chalk, pins and sketchpad

Profession

Archaeologist, safari guide, naturalist

Newscaster, meteorologist, talk show host

Marine biologist, deep-sea diver

Photographer, photojournalist

Aviator, astronaut, military specialist

Architect, engineer, contractor

Emergency medical technician or ambulance driver

Pastry chef, chef or caterer

Web designer, graphic artist, computer programmer

Interior or fashion designer, or costumer



Burkheiser, founder of the Louisiana program, “Parents and teachers have enthusiastically supported it because it’s a way to celebrate Halloween that’s fun, but also safe and educational.”

To find out whether your child’s school is involved, call your child’s teacher or principal’s office.

You can find out more about the program at the Job Shadow Day Web site, www.jobshadow.org.

The site includes a teacher’s guide and a poster, which have

been widely distributed to teachers and principals across the United States.

What I Want to Be When I Grow Up is a program of the National Job Shadow Day Coalition, sponsored by America’s Promise—The Alliance for Youth, Junior Achievement, the National School-to-Work Opportunities Office, the Society for Human Resource Management, with support from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.