

CAREER EXPLORATION LESSON

Lift Maintenance Technician

Teacher lesson guide + printable student worksheet

GRADES	LESSON TIME	VIDEO LENGTH	FORMAT
7-12	15-20 minutes	1:59	Teacher-led / printable

VIDEO

Rise Up Challenge 2024: Snowbird, UtahYouTube: <https://youtu.be/RUp3VSoOURU>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe how the featured employee progressed from lift operator to lift maintenance mechanic.
- Identify the working conditions and personal qualities associated with lift maintenance.
- Explain why lift mechanics are essential to opening and operating a ski mountain.
- Connect initiative, feedback, and willingness to learn with career growth.

MATERIALS

- Teacher computer and classroom display (student videos with headphones, optional)
- One printed worksheet per student (page 3)
- Pens or pencils

LESSON AT A GLANCE

STEP	TEACHER DIRECTION	TIME
1 INTRODUCE	Tell students they will meet a Snowbird lift mechanic and learn how she entered and advanced in the field.	2 min
2 PREVIEW	Ask: "What has to happen before a ski lift can open to the public?"	2 min
3 WATCH	Play the video. Students complete questions 1-5 while viewing. Replay if needed.	3-4 min
4 REFLECT	Students complete questions 6-8 independently or in pairs, then discuss selected responses.	8-10 min

CAREER EXPLORATION LESSON

Discussion + Answer Key

TEACHER DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What surprised you about the conditions lift mechanics may work in?
- Why must lift mechanics sometimes begin before avalanche mitigation is complete?
- What did the employee do that helped her move from seasonal lift operator into a full-time skilled career?
- What does “a closed mouth doesn’t get fed” mean in a workplace or training environment?
- Which qualities from this video would transfer to careers outside the ski industry?

SUGGESTED RESPONSES / ANSWER KEY

#	SUGGESTED RESPONSE
1	She began at Snowbird in 2016 as a lift operator, became a helper in the shop, and became a full-time mechanic in 2019.
2	Examples include heights, deep snow, avalanche terrain before mitigation, snowmobile travel, skiing to work sites, and digging for long periods.
3	Lift mechanics get lifts operating so snow-safety and other mountain teams can move around the mountain and prepare it to open.
4	Ask questions, communicate goals, seek opportunities, and be open to constructive criticism.
5	Willingness to learn, mechanical aptitude, initiative, persistence, communication, and openness to feedback.
6	The quote means that people often need to speak up, ask questions, and make their goals known in order to receive opportunities.
7	Responses will vary. Look for evidence from the video.
8	Responses will vary. Encourage a specific next step, skill, or training opportunity.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Ask students to locate a ski area near them and identify one entry-level role and one skilled or full-time role that could represent a future career pathway.

**ABOUT THE PIPELINE PROJECT**

The Pipeline Project is helping students discover the diverse careers that power the ski industry - from lift maintenance and snowmaking to marketing, hospitality, finance, and leadership. Through classroom resources, career exploration experiences, and industry partnerships, we're helping build the next generation of mountain professionals.

Learn more and explore additional Career Trail Guides at: thepipelineproject.ski/learn

CAREER EXPLORATION WORKSHEET

Lift Maintenance Technician

Video: Rise Up Challenge 2024 - Snowbird, Utah

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

WHILE YOU WATCH

1. How did the employee begin her career at Snowbird, and what steps led to becoming a full-time mechanic?

2. List three challenging working conditions mentioned in the video.

3. Why are lift mechanics an important first step in getting the mountain open?

4. What advice did her mentor give her?

5. What two qualities helped her succeed when she started as a helper?

THINK ABOUT THE CAREER

6. The employee says, "A closed mouth doesn't get fed." What does this mean in the workplace?

7. Would you be comfortable with the outdoor conditions and heights described in the video? Explain.

8. What is one skill or next step you would explore to learn more about lift maintenance?

9. Which part of this career interests you the most? Why?

10. What is the name of your local Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center or program? *Hint: Read the Career Connections section below to learn what CTE is.*

CAREER CONNECTIONS

What is CTE?

Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare students for college, careers, apprenticeships, and the workforce through hands-on learning, industry certifications, and real-world experiences while in high school.

CTE Program Alignment: Engineering & Manufacturing • Heavy Equipment Operations • Construction • Electrical Technology • Welding/Fabrication

Possible Career Path: Lift Operator → Lift Maintenance Helper → Lift Maintenance Technician → Lead Mechanic → Lift Maintenance Manager

Key Workplace Skills: Mechanical Aptitude • Problem Solving • Safety Awareness • Communication

Interested in this career? Talk with your school counselor or CTE coordinator to learn about related courses and opportunities in your area.

EXPLORE CAREERS. BUILD SKILLS. START YOUR PIPELINE.