What is Mind Trekkers?

The Mind Trekkers road show is a Michigan Tech initiative that brings together the Mind Trekkers student organization; the Center for Pre-College Outreach; and Michigan Tech’s Office of Advancement. Mind Trekkers hosts traveling K-12 hands-on outreach events, founded in 2010. The Mind Trekkers program brings the excitement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) directly to pre-college students throughout the nation. These events have garnered much glowing national recognition for Michigan Tech.

Undergraduate and graduate student volunteers serve as a pipeline, connecting thousands of K-12 students to higher education and STEM career opportunities while enjoying one-of-a-kind opportunities and experiences. The undergraduate and graduate students facilitate demonstrations, explaining the science of what is happening to each student individually or in very small groups. Our students serve as college role models to the K-12 students and are learning to teach science and engineering in a very intensive, one-on-one, exciting and successful way. Mind Trekkers is inspiring K-12 students to seek answers, get excited about STEM education, and create our next generation of leaders nationwide.

Is this absence excused by the University?

Mind Trekkers events are not University-excused. However, these events are beneficial not only to your students, but thousands of middle school students across the country that are getting engaged and excited about STEM fields.

How does this event benefit my students?

Mind Trekkers students experience many benefits volunteering at events:
- Businesses sponsor and partner with Mind Trekkers at events, so events serve as networking and recruitment opportunities to gain internship, co-op, and full-time work opportunities with STEM companies.
- Trekkers are learning communication skills by engaging with K-12 students, teachers, and parents in attendance. They learn to break down complex STEM concepts into simple ideas that can be understood by someone no matter their age or education level.
Mind Trekkers learn time management and strategies to balance both school and involvement and plan their schedules accordingly.

- Mind Trekkers are developing responsibility not only by being role models for young students, but also by being in charge of themselves while traveling, being responsible for their duties at our events, and completing their scholastic duties at the same time.

- Our events are nationwide, giving students opportunities to travel and see the country.

- Mind Trekkers is inspiring the next generation of students who may come to Tech one day, and maybe make the next life changing technology.

- Mind Trekkers is also a way for industries to partner with Michigan Tech and open up the doors to support for other programs, including senior design and Enterprise teams.

Can exams/quizzes be proctored for my students?

Yes, exams and quizzes can be proctored on the road by the professional staff from the Center for Pre-College Outreach. There are usually several hours of free time in the evenings during which this can be facilitated.

How can I be more involved to help Mind Trekkers?

Mind Trekkers is always looking to develop new aids to accompany existing demonstrations, update the science used in current demonstrations, and develop new ideas further. Our goal is to have a variety of STEM topics represented at our events to excite every student in attendance. If you have an idea for a hands-on activity, please contact the Center for Pre-College Outreach. We would love to talk to you!