

## High School Outreach

### Volunteer Talking Points

These talking points are designed to frame your discussion with high school students. Remember, many students will not have a clear understanding of what CPAs do, but they will have misconceptions. Use this opportunity to disprove stereotypes while sharing how exciting and worthwhile the accounting profession is.

| Career Path   |
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| When did you decide to you wanted to become an accountant / CPA?  |
| Where did you attend college? What was your major?  |
| Did you have any internships?   |
| What was your first job out of college?   |
| What was the biggest lesson you learned early in your career?   |
| What was your CPA exam experience?  |
| What is your position now?  |
| Typical Day   |
| What is a typical workday like for you?   |
| How did the pandemic impact your organization?  |
| Are you able to work from home?   |
| Accounting Overview   |
| What is the difference between an accountant and a CPA?<br>Earning your CPA requires 150 college credits, passing, the CPA exam and 1 year of work experience.  |
| Accounting Competencies and Skills  |
| Choose two or three of the following success skills and talk about how you used these in your career.<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decision making</li> <li>2. Communication skills</li> <li>3. Collaboration and networking</li> <li>4. Leadership</li> <li>5. Critical thinking</li> <li>6. Technology and analytics</li> </ol>   |
| Perks   |
| There are many perks that come with being a CPA! Explain that accounting is more than taxes.<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Travel: Many accountants are able to travel.</li> <li>2. High salary: Accountants frequently earn a competitive salary. Interns even get paid.</li> <li>3. Job security: Even in uncertain times and a down economy, accountants are in demand.</li> <li>4. Teamwork: Accountants often work in teams.</li> </ol> |
| Flexibility   |
| Share a few examples of the flexibility that accountants have.<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work anywhere: Accountants are needed in all types of business. Give examples.</li> <li>2. Open doors: The CPA license earns a CPA instant credibility.</li> </ol>  |