



# SKILLS CANADA ALBERTA 2021 TRY-A-TRADE® TAKE-OUT ACTIVITY GUIDE

# CONTENTS

**2. About Skills Canada Alberta**

**3. Try-A-Trade® Take-Out Program**

**4. Making an Impact**

**5. Working Together**

**6. Developing Your Try-A-Trade®**

# ABOUT SKILLS CANADA ALBERTA

**Established in 1992, Skills Canada Alberta is a not-for-profit organization that serves as a critical link between employers, educators, labour groups and government. For more than 28 years, we have been a leader in positioning skilled trades and technologies as preferred pathways for Alberta's youth.**

## SKILLED WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL

The Skills Movement continues to be an important focus of industry, government and education. The global pandemic has underscored how essential skilled trades and technologies play a critical role in generating economic activity, help us to meet our infrastructure and manufacturing needs, as well as ensure our food, health and safety systems continue to run during any kind of crisis. Continuing to promote skilled trades and technology to students today ensures a safer tomorrow. Our future will continue to be in good hands as we continue to promote excellence in trades and technologies to youth.

## SKILLS CANADA ALBERTA PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Skills Canada Alberta has proven its ability to pivot well during these past months by creating the first ever Skills Alberta Virtual Competition in May, 2020. Although we were unable to host our Provincials Skills Canada Competition, 300 high school students were still able to compete in 23 competitions in this virtual format created in a matter of weeks. Encouraged by the success of this event, Skills Canada Alberta has sharpened its pencil to address safe delivery, yet maintain hands-on learning that is critical to leaving a lasting impression on students returning to schools this Fall.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to schools and training, affecting how we approach our work in promoting skilled trades and technologies to Alberta youth. As we anticipate added restrictions on student learning such as field trip activities and mass gatherings, we have uniquely addressed how our core programming can still make a lasting impact by ensuring a hands-on focus and using creative tools and content to engage youth in exciting ways.

# TRY-A-TRADE® TAKE-OUT

Try-A-Trades® and Try-A-Skills have become a foundational component of Skills Canada Alberta programs. More than 50 hands-on activities are available for students to try at the Provincial Skills Canada Competition each year, giving students the opportunity to test drive multiple careers in one day. Our Try-A-Trade® activities have become so popular, we added additional stand-alone events to our calendar throughout the school year.

This year in partnership with various industry and education leaders, we will be offering **Try-A-Trade® Take-Out**. Through the program, SCA will ship Try-A-Trade® kits to schools, to ensure students can participate in the hands-on, experiential learning inspired to open their minds and develop their skills.

The program will launch during National Trade and Technologies Week (first week of November, 2020) and run throughout the school year. Teachers will have the opportunity to select Try-A-Trade® kits from an online menu, which will then be shipped to schools.



Teacher surveys show that these **hands-on** demonstrations are very **popular among participants** in the school field trip

## WHAT ARE TRY-A-TRADES®?

Try-A-Trades® is your way of engaging students, transporting them to your industry, and inviting them to safely experience skills that are practiced in day-to-day, on the job activities at your company. Successful Try-A-Trades® open minds, break barriers and demonstrate enthusiasm and professionalism that leave a lasting impression—fueling students’ desire to branch out and explore the endless career opportunities available to them.

**INTERACTIVE**  
**INSPIRING**  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ENGAGING**

# MAKING AN IMPACT

## BY PARTICIPATING AS A TRY-A-TRADE® PARTNER, YOUR TEAM WILL:

- + Increase and improve public awareness of your organization and the trades/technologies you represent
- + Build a stronger brand identity as a leader in the Skills Movement
- + Engage staff and provide rewarding volunteer opportunities through the 'How To' instructional videos, which will be distributed along with the Try-A-Trade® kits
- + Inspire Alberta's future workforce to consider opportunities in your field by demonstrating the value of careers in the trades and technologies



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Skills Canada Alberta promotes interest in trades like I have never witnessed. We brought 35 students from our school and literally everyone enthusiastically expressed high interest in a particular trade.

*Brad Dennis, Mamawi Atosketan Native*

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# WORKING TOGETHER

## PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS

- a) Your company designs and supplies all materials for the Try-A-Trade® activity (with the support of SCA)
- b) SCA will develop the Try-A-Trade® activity and purchase the materials on behalf of your organization

## TIMELINE

1. Upon confirmation of partnership, SCA will provide a dedicated point of contact to manage all logistical requirements throughout the duration of the program (November—June)
2. SCA will work with your organization to develop and approve your Try-A-Trade® activity

### Your organization is responsible for providing:

- Company logo
- Company bio
- Try-A-Trade® activity name and description
- Skilled trade or technology it relates to
- Step by step instructions that are easy to follow
- Materials that are required for the activity (for 200 Try-A-Trade® kits)
- PPE (gloves and safety glasses)
- Promotional items (optional)
- A max. 5 second advertisement (image or video), which will play prior to the instructional video (if included in your partnership agreement)

### SCA is responsible for:

- Filming and editing the 'how to' instructional video which will be included in the Try-A-Trade® kit
  - Creating the 'how to' instruction card, which will be included in the package
  - Partnership recognition as outlined in your SCA partnership agreement
  - Promoting, packaging and distributing your Try-A-Trade® activity to Alberta schools
3. Try-A-Trade® Take-Out program launches during the first week of November. Teachers are able to select Try-A-Trade® activities from an online menu on SCA's website

# DEVELOPING YOUR TRY-A-TRADE®

SCA wants to ensure that you are able to create an innovative Try-A-Trade® experience that is compelling, interactive and one of a kind. Here's our top tips for developing your activity:

## DETERMINE THE CATEGORY THAT ALIGNS WITH YOUR ACTIVITY:

- + Construction and Building
- + Manufacturing
- + Employment
- + Transportation
- + IT Multimedia
- + Service Sector

## DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND RELEVANCE OF YOUR ACTIVITY:

- + Can the activity be completed in a classroom?
- + Does the activity compliment tools available to schools?
- + What are the educational benefits?
- + Will the activity inspire?
- + Is the activity relevant to industry?

## EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL TRY-A-TRADE® ACTIVITIES

### AIT Plumbing

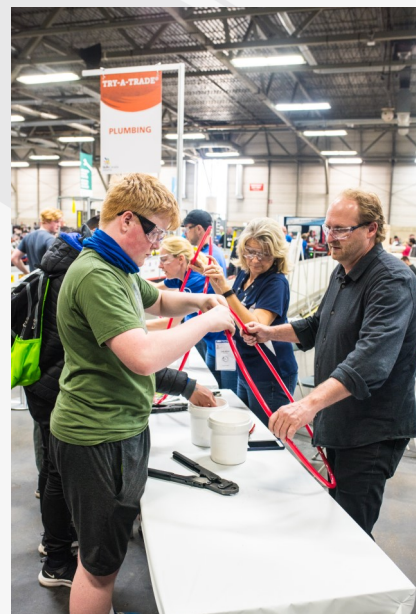
Using basic plumbing tools, such as pipe and crimpers, students build a hula hoop

### ARCCA W Carpentry

Using a scroll saw, power drill and sander, students create wooden characters

### UA Local 488 Phone Holder

Students built a smartphone holder using copper tubing, tube benders and flaring tools



# MAKE AN IMPACT

BECOME PART OF THE SKILLS MOVEMENT.

## SKILLS CANADA ALBERTA

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