

Your One Voice How-To Guide for Hosting Plant Tours



The Department of Labor reports that 441,000 manufacturing jobs are currently available in the US. Manufacturers can help fill their local skills pipeline through **MFG Day**, a day to let your community see what you do firsthand. In 2017, nearly 600,000 people attended MFG Day events nationwide, and that number is expected to grow.

On **Friday, October 5, 2018**, One Voice members will join thousands of American manufacturers nationwide by opening their doors to students, teachers, mayors, local council members and commissioners, state senators and representatives, and members of Congress. When everyone from policymakers to parents knows about the high-tech, highly paid careers opportunities available in our industry, we will close the skills gap and keep American manufacturing competitive and strong. It's important – **and it's easy!**

Seven Steps to Plant Tour Success

Step 1: Identify a School Near You and Your Elected Official

Find local middle and high schools in your area with contact name and phone number:

<http://www.greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/?lat=0&lon=0&level=m&q>

Locate a NIMS registered organization and nationally accredited metalworking skills programs:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?authuser=0&hl=en&mid=zJTMtVqUQ_Nc.k61icVWI3t4Y

Find your Mayor, Council members, State Representatives and Senators and members of Congress:

<https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6751/getLocal.jsp>

Step 2: Start Your Outreach

If reaching out to a school, contact the local principal, superintendent, or program director by phone or email. If contacting a candidate or elected official, start with their scheduler.

A sample phone script and invitation letter are below. Remember that you may need to follow up a few times.



INTRO IF CALLING: My name is *[NAME]* with the local manufacturing company, *[COMPANY NAME]*, located in *[CITY]*. We would like to invite *[your students, Mayor X, Councilwoman Y, Senator Z, etc.]* to tour our plant on National Manufacturing Day, an annual celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers, on Friday, October 6.



INTRO IF EMAILING: On behalf of *[COMPANY NAME]*, a local manufacturing company in *[CITY]*, we would like to invite *[your students, Mayor X, Councilwoman Y, Senator Z, etc.]* to tour our plant on National Manufacturing Day, Friday, October 5.

We manufacture *[SAMPLE OF PRODUCTS]* for the *[INDUSTRIES SERVED OR FINISHED PRODUCTS]* industries.

This invitation is part of Manufacturing Day, an annual celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers, and our ongoing efforts to inform policymakers and the public about the high-tech and highly paid manufacturing careers available in our communities. Many elected officials, students, parents, and members of the media are not aware of the precision products we manufacture right here in our state. Manufacturing is growing and we would like to showcase our shop to you.

We would be happy to discuss logistics in more detail, including transportation, educational materials, safety requirements, and other information. We think this is a unique opportunity to teach our *[kids or elected officials]* and inform our community about manufacturing in the area and reinforce the role science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education plays in our workplaces.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to discussing how best to proceed.

Step 3: Confirm Your Event with Attendees

- Confirm with attendees and track RSVPs with regular follow-up.
- Make sure the school/elected official's staff knows you would like parents/staff (if appropriate) involved as much as possible and to attend the facility tour if available.
- Reach out to nearby manufacturers and suggest collaborating for tours of multiple facilities in your area.
- Be sure to coordinate trips to make sure there is not overlap with another group you invite.
- Decide if you want to invite local media. For assistance with this outreach, email info@metalworkingadvocate.org.
- Provide directions. Make sure drivers know where to park and that there is ample space by the entrance to unload visitors.

Step 4: Announce Your Event

Tell your One Voice team about your event and get assistance with press releases, social media postings, and media outreach. Contact info@metalworkingadvocate.org.

Step 5: Promote Your Event

- Register your event with MFG Day to be added to their event map: <http://www.mfgday.com/user/register>.
- Ask the school/organization to include information on it in their newsletter/bulletin boards/list serves.
- Post your event online and spread the word with social media. Tag One Voice, MFG Day, PMA, or NTMA:



TWITTER: @OneVoiceforMfg, @MfgDay, @PMATalk, and @NTMATalk



FACEBOOK: @MfgDay, @PrecisionMetalformingAssociation, and @NTMAnow



LINKEDIN: "Precision Metalforming Association" and "National Tooling and Machining Association" group pages

Step 6: Prepare for Your Event

- Inform your employees of the visit. Designate specific tour guides and designate a photographer.
- Determine who will speak and what they will say.
- Develop a tour map/plan; identify stopping points and create an informal script to describe each activity.
- Place a welcome sign outside or on lobby screen if possible.
- Create name badges for guests and employees involved in the tour.
- Have some finished products, company information, literature, available for viewing before the tour.
- Display trade association materials to give a broad sense of the industry.

Step 7: Follow Up

- Send thank you notes to your primary contacts.
- Include these contacts on your company newsletter distribution and follow each institution or official on social media.
- Send pictures and an event summary to your One Voice team: info@metalworkingadvocate.org.

If you have any questions or want more support, please contact info@metalworkingadvocate.org.