



News Release
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Koch Industries Offers YEK Students Glimpse Into Business World

Nearly 500 students will participate in annual field trip

Wichita, Kan.– Local students from Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas (YEK) classes will visit Koch Industries' Wichita office, September 14-22 for the third annual YEK Koch Industries Field Trip. Since 2008, more than 1,200 students have participated in the field trip.

“This is a great concept and we enjoy hosting the students each year,” said Melissa Cohlma, spokesperson for Koch Industries, Inc. “YEK continues to be an important organization in our community and we are happy to be a part of the program.”

Students will tour the YEK offices and various Koch companies. One of the highlights of the field trip is the business incubator preview. YEK offers all graduates of the program the opportunity to utilize a business incubator as they start up their own business. Incubators come furnished with office furniture, computer workstation, telephone access, Internet access and other office services.

“YEK strives to give students real-life business experiences and this field trip is a great opportunity to introduce them to a professional environment where they can learn more about the program and how businesses operate,” said Kylie Stupka, YEK executive director.

Students will get a glimpse of day-to-day operations and apply the experience to the classroom.

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“The students get to learn about business while walking the halls of a major corporation,” said Janet Hartley, YEK teacher at West High School in Wichita. “That type of experience is not something they can get from a textbook.”

YEK was established in 1991 by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation. YEK is a non-profit organization that works primarily with public schools, teaching business and entrepreneurial skills in the classroom through an intensive yearlong curriculum. It is a licensed program of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), based in New York.

YEK is part of the curriculum of 29 high schools across Kansas and Missouri. Since its first year of operation, over 10,000 students have graduated from YEK. More than 900 new students will be served in 2010-11.

About Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas (YEK)

Founded in 1991 by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, YEK teaches free enterprise fundamentals to high school students through hands-on experiences. The program gives students the skills and tools to start their own business or enhance their business skills for future career opportunities, as well as encourages them to continue into higher education. Funded completely by private donations, YEK is a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, to donate or to volunteer with YEK, please visit www.yeks.org.