

Company Treks: How to Prepare

Know What to Expect

Company Treks are one-day, off-campus opportunities exclusively for UNC Charlotte students to experience the culture at different companies and organizations in the Charlotte area and beyond.

Treks typically consist of a company tour, an overview of the company/organization, and an opportunity to network. Agendas vary from Trek to Trek, but expect to learn more about an industry and to hear perspectives from employees who hold a variety of roles within an organization.

Plan Ahead

Early = On Time

The Company Trek will begin promptly at the time listed in your confirmation email. Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early to ensure you find the UNC Charlotte group, check in with the Company Trek coordinator, and get settled before the event.

Travel Time

Research how long it will take you to arrive to the Company Trek location *before the day of the event*. If you're not familiar with the area, plan for extra travel time in case you get lost and/or run into traffic. The Trek will start without you; tardiness due to traffic or a wrong turn is not an excuse.

Parking

Parking will vary depending on the location of the Company Trek's host company. Some hosts have free parking lots while others, especially if located uptown, will offer parking deck suggestions. If parking in a deck is necessary, make sure you research the cost of the garage as payment for parking is the student's responsibility.

Ask Smart Questions

You'll have the opportunity to interact with employers throughout the Company Trek. Prepare a list of questions about the company to ensure you can actively engage in conversation. A best practice for preparation is to research the company online by browsing through the website and searching for the company on LinkedIn. What's trending? What catches your eye?

Sample questions:

- What interested you in this company during your job search?
- What's the culture of your office like?
- What advice do you have for me as a student preparing for my career?

Bring a padfolio and/or notebook to take notes and remind yourself of the research you did before the Trek. This exudes an air of professionalism, and also serves as a great place to keep a few resumes on hand.

Dress Appropriately

Think about it from the employer's perspective – if you were hiring an intern or professional employee, would you be more impressed with a student in a business suit or a student dressed in jeans and a t-shirt?

Unless specified in your confirmation materials once you've registered for a Company Trek, here are some general rules to consider:

- Be conservative; it's always better to be overdressed than underdressed.
- Think about your field and dress the part. For example, if you are going into a conservative field, such as banking, it's best to dress as conservatively as you can. However, if your field involves more creativity, such as fashion or advertising, you may stray a bit from the "typical" interview attire to express your style.

Remember, first impressions go a long way and are often formed in a matter of seconds. Keep this in mind as you plan your outfit for the Company Trek.

Follow Up

Between the University Career Center and the host company, Company Treks typically take several months to plan and coordinate. Taking a few minutes to reach out and express your appreciation to the employer and recognizing their effort to make this event happen can go a long way.

Ideas for you to consider:

- Send the host employer(s) a thank you email
- Connect with the host employers on LinkedIn; include a thank you message