



#### STUDENT ACTIVATION



### Dealer Technician

#### **OVERVIEW**

Dealer technicians (or dealer techs) are highly observant, detail oriented, dexterous professionals who inspect, maintain, and repair equipment and engines. This includes large trucks, machines and vehicles used at building and road construction sites—such as bulldozers and cranes—power generators, marine engines, and agricultural equipment. Dealer techs:

- Interpret data and use diagnostic tools to test instruments and parts of equipment.
- Determine when equipment needs of repair, replacement, or upgrade, and are able to disassemble and reassemble equipment to address issues.
- Read complex manuals to learn repair procedures and utilize a variety of hand and power tools to replace defective parts and address problems.
- Conduct inspections to ensure completed work is up to standard, and keep records of repair work.

In all of their work, dealer techs are required to follow rules and equipment maintenance schedules established by both corporate and government regulations and standards. They also must keep up to date on the latest trends and innovations in the design of engines and equipment.



### **EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST**

- $\hfill \square$  I enjoy diagnosing problems and fixing things, especially items with engines and motors.
- ☐ I like figuring out how things work and identifying the importance of the various component parts of complex items.
- ☐ I am dexterous; I have excellent hand-eye coordination and can use my fingers and hands to work on parts that might be in tight places.

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- ☐ I can use instruction manuals to complete complicated, multi-step tasks.
   ☐ I am a problem-solver. I have a knack for asking smart questions
- that help others identify problems and issues. I work with others to formulate solutions to problems.
- ☐ I enjoy working with a wide variety of tools.

#### **CAREER CONNECTION**

# How does this career affect me?

On a day-to-day basis, every individual's quality of life depends on access to society's physical infrastructure, including reliable electricity, safe roads, effective hospitals, and high-quality schools. Dealer technicians maintain and repair machines and equipment that are needed to build and sustain that infrastructure. Reliable, safe, and efficient equipment operation makes infrastructure creation more efficient and less costly to individual citizens.

# What are some other similar careers?

Automotive service technicians and mechanics repair and perform maintenance tasks on cars and light trucks.

**Diesel service technicians**perform maintenance on vehicles
such as trucks and buses with
diesel engines.

**Small engine mechanics** repair and service engines parts on power equipment, such as small tractors, mowers, and saws.

**Aircraft maintenance** technicians maintain and perform repairs on airplanes and helicopters.

Aerospace engineering and operations technicians operate and maintain equipment used to design, build, and maintain aircraft and space vehicles.

Water transportation workers operate, service, and repair boats and ships that transport people and goods over water.

# How does this career affect the world?

The development of modern and reliable infrastructure—including reliable power sources, safe transportation, quality healthcare, and effective schools—is key to closing the quality-of-life gap between industrialized and emerging societies. Machines and equipment are used globally to build physical infrastructures. Dealer techs maintain these resources so infrastructure creation can continue to improve the lives of people across the globe.



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STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



#### **TAKE ACTION**

- □ Consult manuals and online resources to learn more about the workings of mechanized items in your home, such as appliances, vehicles, and yard equipment. When possible, assist with repair work on these items, learning to use a variety of tools and your hands to replace, adjust, and manipulate parts.
- □ Visit a flea market or thrift store and purchase an old and inexpensive bicycle, appliance, power tool, or some other mechanized or complex item. Use tools and your hands to take the item apart, study how it works, and reassemble it. Make observations about differences between the item you acquired and newer, improved versions.
- ☐ Join an organization or take a class at school that assembles or repairs mechanized items. Examples might include a small engine repair course, the robotics team, or mechanical sculpture.



