



Carey Thornell

So, What Do You Going to Do After High School?

By the time kids reach high school, they're expected to know what their college major and career path will be. Often, they don't have a clue. Fortunately, programs such as the After School Activities Program (ASAP), helps expose children to real-life work and positions to help them shape ideas about their interests and skills.

Carey Thornell, Coordinator for the program, started her career with ASAP straight out of college 17 years ago. She had earned an Education degree from Angelo State University and a Master of Educational Administration from Concordia University. Her plan was to be a teacher but after working at ASAP, she knew that she wanted to be involved with helping kids discover where their interests and career intersect. "I love coordinating activities that give kids confidence through real-life experiences. I get paid to do what I love," she says. "I get to see kids go on to great careers at places like the University of Texas and Ronald McDonald House."

Site coordinators at each Georgetown middle school expose kids to hands-on experiences in culinary arts, computer programming, cosmetology, retail and many other industries to give them an up close and personal view of what working in these fields is like. The coordinators bring experts on site and take the kids on field trips.

The After School Activities Program for middle schoolers is a partnership between The Georgetown Project and GISD. "The Georgetown Project was the catalyst for the program over 20 years ago and provides the program with financial support and guidance," Carey says.

ASAP is open to any middle school student in the GISD system. Registration is on a rolling and basis and can be accessed at <https://www.georgetownisd.org/Page/472>. Fees are nominal and based on a sliding scale.