



# The Power of Storytelling

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# Telling the High School High Tech Story

THE **A**BLE TRUST™  
High School High Tech



# Why is it important?

- Help raise awareness about The Able Trust and HSHT

- Show HSHT impact

- Promote important resources and milestones



## High School High Tech 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**THE ABLE TRUST**  
High School High Tech

**SHALAMAR LEVARITY**  
High School High Tech Student

“  
As a freshman, I was in the program thinking this is just a program to join. I wasn't really thinking about college and the future. But, it helps me know what I want to do after high school. Since we've visited college and campus tours, it gives me an idea of what I want to do outside of high school. It's really helped me mentally know what I want to do in life. That's what I take from HSHT.

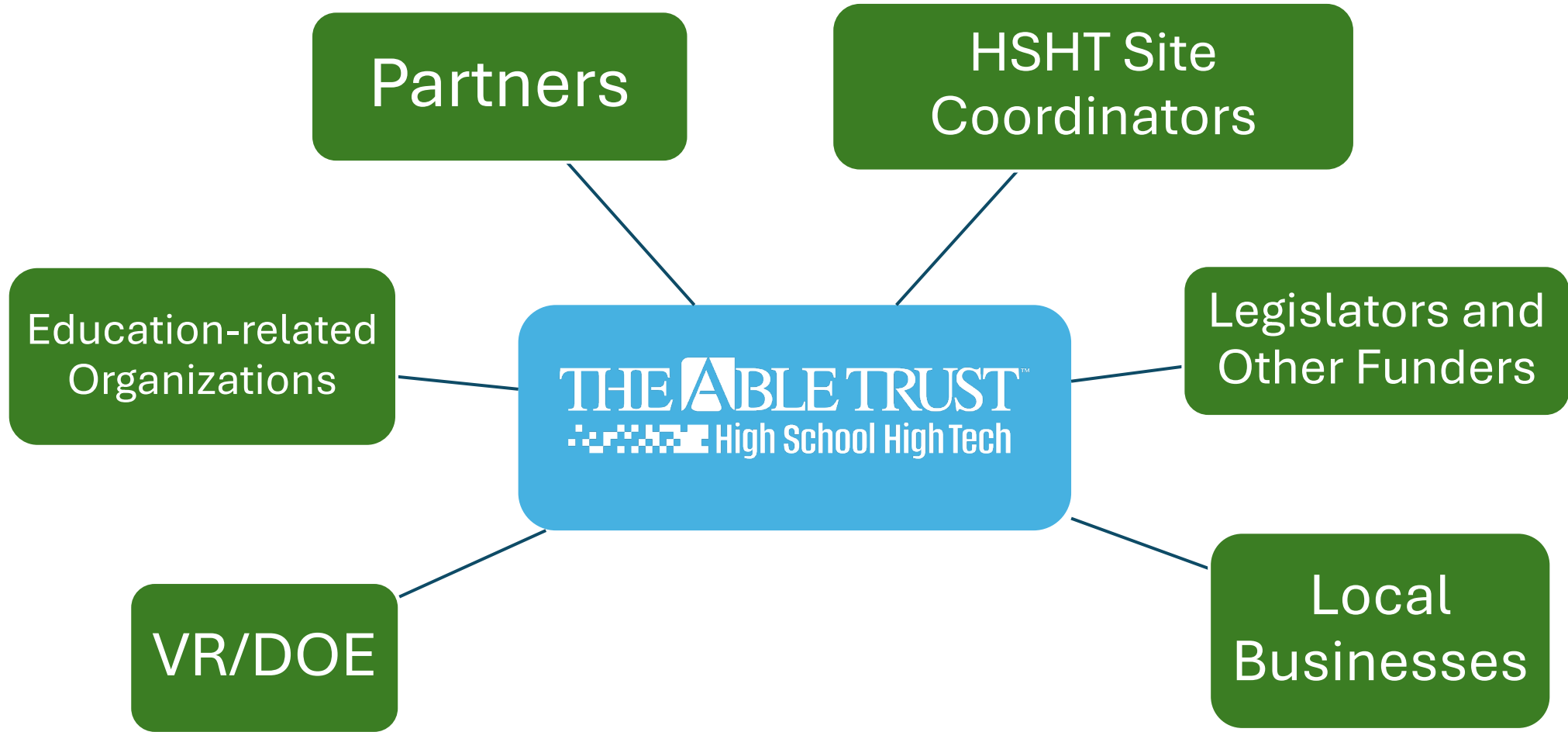
**THE ABLE TRUST**  
Florida Department of Education

**Industry Analysis and Pathways to Career Success for Persons with Disabilities**

**MAXIMIZING EMPLOYMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FLORIDA**

**THE ABLE TRUST**

# Expanding Audiences

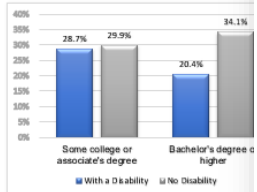


# Tell Our Story Tools

## Transitioning Students with Disabilities into Florida's Talent Pipeline



The high school graduation rates for persons with disabilities are improving each year. However, when looking at postsecondary education, we continue to see a lower educational attainment level for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Only 20.4 percent of PwDs attain a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 34.1 percent of persons with no disability.



In our efforts to improve postsecondary education a training opportunities for students with disabilities, The Able Trust currently offers or is in the process of developing several programs:

- High School High Tech
- Project Venture
- High School High Tech Lite
- Career Experience Camps

### HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH

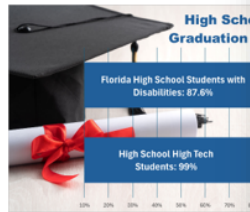
The Able Trust High School High Tech (HSHT) program works with students with disabilities to help prepare them for their next step after graduation.



The Able Trust recently launched Futures in Focus for students with disabilities, age 14-22. Futures in Focus will increase the number of students with disabilities who have access to in-person career and postsecondary experiences in their local communities. This new program will also connect students with disabilities to Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation leading to increased pre-employment support, increased student participation in Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, and increased high school graduates' enrollment in postsecondary options.

### REACHING MORE FLORIDA STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

With over 125,000 students with disabilities in Florida grades 9-12, The Able Trust, in partnership with the Florida Division of



Vocational Rehabilitation, is focused on expanding its youth programs to help prepare more students for a successful future. This investment in preparing students with disabilities for postsecondary and employment success will not only benefit students throughout Florida, but it will also strengthen the communities in which they live.

### Jakel

Before joining High School High Tech, Jakel was reserved and reluctant to join any school activities. He believed college was not for him. However, with the encouragement of his HSHT coordinator, Jakel blossomed into a sociable, professional and driven young man. In his junior year, he was voted High School High Tech Vice President for his school and subsequently voted High School High Tech President during his senior year.

Jakel has become an advocate for young adults with disabilities and he is now enrolled at Tallahassee State College with plans to transfer to Florida State University to major in computer science. Jakel attributes much of his success, leadership skills, and future career goals to High School High Tech.



### VISIT WWW.ABLETRUST.ORG TO:

- Learn more about the High School High Tech program for high school students with disabilities.
- Meet our High School High Tech ambassadors and learn how this program has benefited them and prepared them for the future.
- Invite us to speak if your organization would like to hear about the success of these programs and proven outcomes.

THE ABLE TRUST | Who We Are | What We Do | Resources | Connect with Us | Crossing the Stage Campaign | DONATE NOW

## Engage Invest Collaborate

The Able Trust is committed to advancing employment success for students with disabilities by preparing them to excel in Florida's workforce.

[GET STARTED](#)

**Thank you to everyone who participated in our Disability Employment Awareness Month Tell Your Story contest! To see who won the drawing and learn more about them, CLICK HERE.**

## The Able Trust Vision

Established in 1990, the vision of The Able Trust is that all Floridians with disabilities achieve their employment potential. As we work in communities across Florida, our youth programs are helping students with disabilities realize their dreams.

### The Able Trust @the-able-trust

Oct 17

A student in The Arc Jacksonville's #FloridaHSHT program, Megan is in her third year of on-the-job training at Catty Shack Wildlife Sanctuary--where she gets to work with some BIG cats! Megan will soon head to college to pursue studies in organizational management, specializing in zoo and aquarium management! (Photos courtesy of The Arc Jacksonville.) #DEAM

[Read less](#)

THE ABLE TRUST | Empower | Helping students with disabilities explore and prepare for career success. | January 2024

[Sign Up Now](#)

### Expanding Career Exploration

**Futures in Focus**  
The Able Trust is pleased to announce a new program to offer students with disabilities the opportunity to explore career or postsecondary options. Futures in Focus is based on our successful High School High Tech program and will ensure students with disabilities throughout Florida understand the full breadth of possible postsecondary and career options as they envision a future that includes postsecondary education or training, or going directly into the workforce.

[Learn More](#)

### Developing a Stronger Talent Pipeline

**A Magic Evening**  
The Able Trust recently hosted...

[View the presentation](#)

**History, Choice, Power**  
Conversations of Florida...

**The Able Trust**  
Sep 25

Kudos to Harmony and all of our #FloridaHSHT students past, present, and future! We're so thankful for the opportunity to learn and share your stories! #HSHT30 #inclusiveflorida

[Read less](#)

**Justin Adams on LinkedIn:**  
#hsht30 #floridahsht  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

# Student Impacts & Highlights

## Job and Career Exploration



Leon and Wakulla County High School High Tech students recently attended the second annual **North Florida Worlds of Work** event held on the Tallahassee State College campus. The interactive job exploration fair showcased a wide range of career pathways through hands-on exhibits and face-to-face discussion with industry experts.

## Kicking Off 2024-25's High School High Tech Year in Style!



The Leon County and Wakulla County High School High Tech programs opened the new year with fun events. Leon HSHT took part in a day of networking activities and lively bowling competition at the District 850 entertainment complex in Tallahassee, while Wakulla HSHT enjoyed a Tex-Mex feast to meet new members and welcome back returning students and parents!

## Pinellas High School High Tech Students Take Part in Tampa Bay Watch

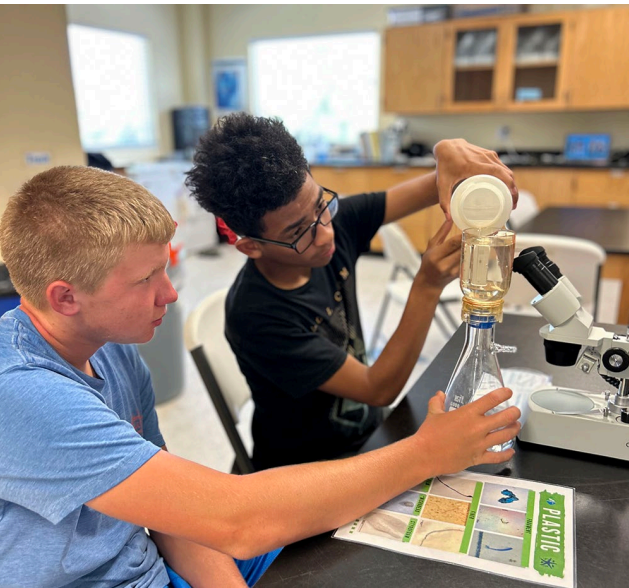


Pinellas County High School High Tech students took to the waters of Florida's west coast during the Tampa Bay Watch Field Day event. Students learned about conservation efforts, marine wildlife, water testing and many more ecological career pursuits.

- Photos are updated regularly
- [Click here](#) to view webpage



# Photos Help Tell the Story



# Photo Description

- Where did tour/visit take place?
- When did tour take place?
- What type of activity did students participate in?
- What type of skills did they learn or did they hear about?







# Grad Pic Details

- Name of student
- Activities in high school (other than HSHT)
- Plans after graduation
- Career aspirations

# Senior Survey

## Senior Exit Survey – FY2024

1. How many years have you been in High School High Tech?

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- More than 4 years

2. What type of diploma will you receive when you graduate high school?

- Standard Diploma
- Standard Diploma with Access
- Certificate of Completion
- GED
- Deferment



# Toolkit and Social Media Tips

# Marketing Toolkit



Scan the QR code for a digital copy of our High School High Tech 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary toolkit!

- Email signature template
- Helpful URLs to keep handy
- Official social media hashtags and handles, plus sample posts
- ... and more!

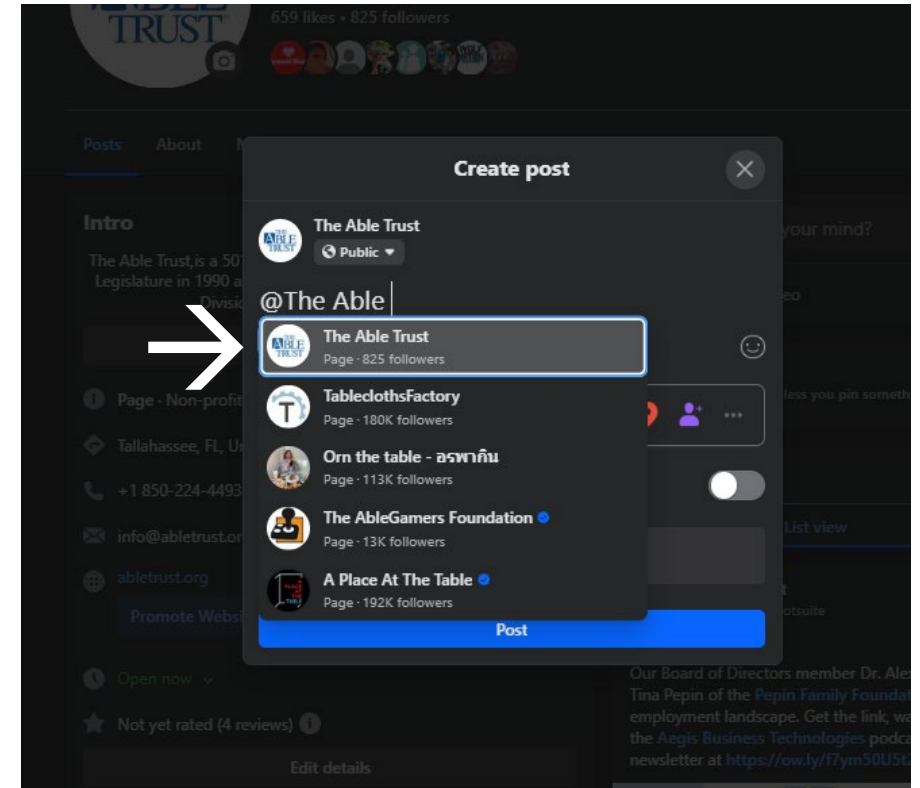
# Social Media

## The Able Trust's Official Handles

- Facebook: @The Able Trust
- Instagram: @abletrust
- LinkedIn: @The Able Trust
- Twitter/X: @AbleTrust

## Tag us in your HSHT posts!

- Facebook & LinkedIn: type handle, select TAT
- Instagram & Twitter/X: will auto-tag when published



# Social Media

## The Able Trust's Official Hashtags

- General HSHT: #FloridaHSHT
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: #HSHT30
- DEAM (during/around October): #DEAM
  - Use for job site visits, career exploration experiences, etc.

# Social Media

**We can only view/share  
your posts when their  
visibility is set to Public**

# Social Media

## Post Visibility Settings by Platform

- Facebook & LinkedIn: Can choose privacy settings while creating each post; platform will remember your settings for your next post
- Instagram & Twitter/X: Must set entire profile to be publicly visible
- See the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toolkit** for detailed instructions and sample screenshots by platform



# Social Media

## Writing Text for a Post – General Tips

- Keep text concise – use the **“five W’s of journalism”** as a guideline for efficient, robust text content
- Use **3-4 sentences** of text at most for general posts
- When possible and appropriate, include one or more related **photos and/or videos** to help your post stand out

# Social Media



thearcjacksonville • Following



thearcjacksonville 2d

Check out these sweet tees! 🥰 Career Campus made these shirts for our High School High Tech volunteer group to wear during the @jacksonvillezoo #spooktacular! @abletrust #FloridaHSHT

**No comments yet.**

Start the conversation.



34 likes

2 days ago



Add a comment...



# Social Media

## Writing Text for a Post – Notes on Web Addresses (URLs)

- Facebook & LinkedIn: If you do not include a photo or video in a post where you share a URL, the platform will show a **preview** of the site
- Instagram: URLs in the caption text of posts **will not link out** – use a “link in bio” service like Linktree if you want to share links
- Twitter/X: Copied/pasted URLs will only take up about **20 characters** (of your 280-character limit) no matter how long they are

# Social Media

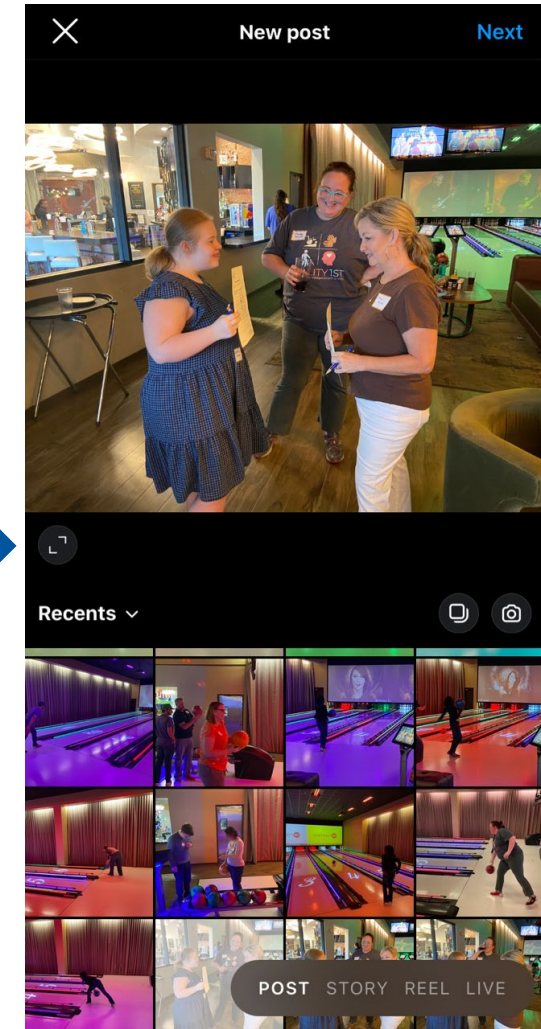
## Photo Formatting – General Tips

- Across all platforms, **square images** tend to work well – they will not be cropped when the platform scales them to standard sizes
- Holding your phone **horizontally** when taking photos will reduce the potential of image scaling

# Social Media

## Photo Formatting – Instagram

- When posting from a smartphone, you can choose **portrait or landscape orientation** for your photos
  - Horizontal photos – landscape is best
  - Vertical photos – choose what works best for each image



# Social Media



# Social Media

## Filming & Sharing Videos – General Tips

- Holding your phone **horizontally** to film is best for sharing videos to social media
- Lighting: Your **primary light source** should ideally be behind you
- Wardrobe: **Vivid-colored clothing** tends to provide more contrast and show up better on video (unless the setting/background is low-lit)

# Social Media

## Filming & Sharing Videos – General Tips

- Start with an **engaging hook** – succinctly tell your audience where you are, why you're there, and what you're doing (remember the five W's!)
- Keep it **short and sweet** – Twitter/X in particular has a 2:20 time limit, which is about as long as most people want to spend watching a video while scrolling on any platform



# The Power of Storytelling

## Reach Out With Your Questions!

[Tracey@abletrust.org](mailto:Tracey@abletrust.org)

[Justin@abletrust.org](mailto:Justin@abletrust.org)

We want to help you!  
Contact us for advice, suggestions  
and best practices.

