

## VR Linesperson Experience

### Volunteer Setup and General Info Updated 7/30/25

Keep headsets plugged in to charger until ready for first group. Each headset should be set to work within the “boundaries” set up prior to student arrival. Each headset is numbered and needs to stay at the table location matching the number (mark new tables numbers if you have to replace a headset). Students need to stay seated throughout the experience but can swivel in the chairs. Students should not put the headsets on until you have given instructions to do so. When not in use headsets should be face down on the table with the straps to the side (unit will think it still being worn and continuously play if straps are over lenses). Make sure Ipads are also ready in case students cannot use the headsets.

(You will have up to 5 students for 10 minutes, at the 10-minute mark, exchange with the electrician group)

### Volunteer Script

Tell students:

- **Virtual reality (VR) is an immersive experience that can be intense.**
- **If at any time you have feelings of light-headedness, dizziness or nausea please remove headset. We have Ipads that you may use to view the same experience.**
- **If you are wearing glasses, they headset may work better without them on.**
  
- **You are about to experience working as a linesman working on some of the tallest power lines in Missouri. In the video he is installing glass cylinders to insulate the power line.**
- **While you’re up there, you can look around by simply turning your head, look up down, you can circle around in the chair too, stay in your seat the entire time.**
- **Keep your eyes open for (6) letters scattered throughout the video.** Like this: “A”.
- **Call out the letters when you see them.** Ask them if they can guess what word they are unscrambling (spells SAFETY)
- **Also be on the lookout for safety equipment, see how many of these you can remember!** (listed below)
- **You may now put on your headsets. The video is around 6 minutes, it may already be playing and will loop to start again. You only need to watch the entire loop once. There is a dark screen for a few seconds between the start and end so give it time to start up.**

Reminder: Each spot at the table is labeled with a number that corresponds to the head set on their place. Leaving that area will disrupt the boundary and the experience will not work when they are out of the boundary, (it will show gray).

Safety Gear in video, ask why they think each are needed:

- Hard Hat
- Harness
- Safety Gloves
- Safety Line
- Ladder
- Boots
- High-Vis Vest

- After you have watched the video, remove the headset and place it facedown on the table, making sure the video has paused (watch those straps!)

To clean – Use wet wipes on the headsets between groups

#### Possible discussion after video

- What kind of training does it take to become a linesperson? trade school, union apprentice, on the job apprentice; will need about 2 years of training, certification
- Median salary \$80K, around \$40 per hour, most paid hourly. We have even heard of some retiring linesman making around \$300k. Currently high demand for this position.
- Factors that affect pay other than experience: Location, Storm season, responding to emergencies
- Many work late nights, early mornings due to the circumstances of the job (overtime), particularly during bad weather, others work a more predictable schedule
- Physical requirements: need strength, stamina, agility, courage tenacity, leadership, strong work ethic
- A few types of linesman jobs:
  - power/electrical linesperson they install, maintain and repair electric power lines used in electricity distribution, could be in lines in the ground, not all linespersons climb the high towers; other electricians assist with troubleshooting or new installations
  - aerial they install, repair, maintain overhead electrical power lines
- Math required: algebra to calculate basic measurements for tool and equipment selections, geometry for setting up angles

Have students leave headsets face down on the table (with the band not over the lenses, otherwise the device may think it's still being worn and will continue to play)