



ASQ Member Engineers Give Advice

Last year, ASQ surveyed its members who are engineers, asking them to describe how and why they got involved in engineering, what it means to be a quality engineer and how parents can get their children excited about the profession. Here are some of their responses:

Why did you pursue engineering as a career?

- I enjoyed math and science.
- I was looking for a field that would be challenging and interesting—and one in which I'd always be able to find work.
- An engineering college student (a graduate from our high school) came to our physics class my senior year to talk about engineering, and it sounded interesting to me.
- I had an uncle I respected who was an engineer.
- I enjoyed design and the actual creation of a product that I would be able to hold in my hands.
- I enjoy problem solving and creative thinking.

What tips do you have for parents on how to get their child/children excited about a career in engineering?

- Encourage their imagination early. Get them interested in sciences. Emphasize that engineers serve people. Get them information on engineering as a career.
- Take them to visit science museums. Talk about where and how all the everyday things around them are designed and made. Visit industrial sites and watch products being made.
- Seek out and enroll them in local or regionally sponsored engineering introduction programs. Seek out engineering-related societies to present to middle and high schools.
- The possibilities for a career in engineering are endless. It is easy to move from one commodity to another as well as multitude of different positions once you have an engineering degree.
- First, you have to get the parents excited. There is still a perception that engineers are geeks, and parents do not want their children to be geeks.

How would you answer, "What is a quality engineer?"

- Quality engineers are responsible for making sure the products made are the best they can be for their customers. They make sure the machines and processes used to manufacture the products are working properly and running the best they can.
- We are problem solvers who—by working with others on high-performance teams—improve how organizations get things done. This applies to any type of organization, from a manufacturing plant to a hospital to a faith-based organization.