

Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

Instructions: Find a job post online for a role and company you would like to apply for. Answer the following questions as if you were being interviewed for the job. Research the STAR method of answering behavioral interview questions and where applicable, utilize the STAR method in answering the below questions.

Job: Carbon Robotics Backend Developer - https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/sr-software-engineer-backend-at-carbon-robotics-3472231962/

How did you hear about this position? (Make sure you remember where you heard about the role, so it doesn't look like you are just applying randomly to every position possible.)

My parents are organic farmers. One of the biggest issues we deal with is keeping the weeds under control. We came across an ad for the laser weeder and we interested since it would be viable for organic farming.

What do you know about the company? (Research the company, website, products/services, and reviews. Talk about good reviews that make you want to join.)

I know that the company is based in Seattle. It is focused on weed control without chemicals. They have two different products out for production and are currently developing a cloud connection for the weeders.

Why do you want this job? (Be very specific. Talk about what appeals to you about the role but focus more on the value you'll add to the team and company rather than what the company will do for you.)

I want to learn more about how your weeder functions. I also have new ideas to help expand your business and add extra functionality. Along with laser weeding, you could implement spot mechanical weeding. This would replace the high cost lasers with a lower cost mechanical implements that would still spot kill weeds. While this would have lower precision, it would open up the weeder to broader markets. It would also make the weeder more serviceable since it would be using mechanical equipment, which farmers are already knowledgeable about, instead of a CO2 laser, which can be dangerous to modify or jury rig to make a temporary fix.

Why should we hire you? (Be very specific. Talk about your skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn to be an asset.)

I have been coding for over ten years. I have coding experience with everything from coding lego mindstorms to website development with html/javascript to java, c++ and c# coding. I have



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spent the last two years learning and developing with arduinoes and system engineering. I also have recently gotten a backend certificate using Java and AWS. I enjoy learning new coding and electrical concepts.

What is your greatest professional achievement? (STAR)

Since I am still in school, my professional experiences have been limited. However, my greatest professional achievement would have to be earning my Eagle Scout rank. Earning eagle scout required me to lead my troop for over a year as well as direct a community service project. In our boy led troop, I had to lead the troop to plan all of our trips as well as teach and direct the weekly meeting. For my eagle project, I had to work with the local park director of operations to design improvements. I had to design blueprints for horseshoe pits. I then had to create a bill of materials and ensure that we had all the tools to complete the project. I finally had to manage people as we built three different horseshoe pits over the course of two different days.

Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it. (STAR. Never speak negatively about anyone else or any companies. Perhaps talk about change you experiences, as change is always difficult to overcome.)

The day of my eagle scout project, I found out that we didn't get all the concrete needed to complete the horseshoe pits. Because of time limitations, I had to direct clearing and leveling the sites while also helping redesign the pits to use less concrete. While the project was only supposed to take a day, I was able to minimize the delay from redesigning the plans and it only took a couple people an hour the second day to finish.

What are your goals for the future? (Make sure you answer in a time bound manner and talk about how you are looking to learn as much as possible in your field.)

I would like to increase my financial stability in the next couple of years. I would like to better myself and learn about new systems, both digital and physical.

Why are you leaving your last job? (Don't say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.)



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My grandparents run an internet provider company. I was working for them as an installer. I would like to branch out from family to continue my work experience and expand my education.

What is your salary expectation?

Because I don't meet all the prerequisites for this job and would need time to research and for training, I would like to start at \$100,000.