Hello. My name is ____________ and I am a nurse. (briefly describe your current nursing position and previous positions you have had) I am here today to provide you with information about the nursing profession, hoping you will seriously consider nursing as your career choice.
When most students graduate from college, they go looking for a job. When nursing students graduate from college, a job comes looking for them.
Nursing is a well-respected, well-paid profession.
Do you work hard as a student to become a nurse? Absolutely.
Do you work hard once you are a working professional nurse? Absolutely.
And do you love every day you are at work? Once again, absolutely.
I will tell you about being a student nurse and about being a nurse, and then, when I finish with that, I will respond to your questions. So, please write down your questions or keep them in your mind so I can answer them.
To prepare for a career in nursing you need to take sciences and math while you are in high school. You should take psychology, sociology and human growth and development. Nurses need good writing skills as well, so English and grammar courses are important, too.
Many high school students work in a nursing home or hospital as a nursing assistant. That helps in a couple of ways. It gives you a good idea of what nursing is really like. In addition, you can learn many of the basic skills that are important to nursing. In Nursing School, you learn so much more about why things are done in a particular way, how to be certain your work is safe and helpful, and so many more skills that only nurses can carry out.
Once you get to college, you will need to take more sciences and math courses, more psychology and sociology, more English and history and the humanities. A well-rounded education teaches a nurse to think critically; an essential skill in making the kinds of important decisions nurses make every day.
When you finally get to go to a clinical unit to work with patients as a student nurse, you will be nervous and excited. (Tell what you remember about your first clinical day and what was going through your mind on that day.)
There is always a nursing instructor with student nurses. The instructor lets you know what is expected of you each day. For example,

______________________________.
Nurses address ways for people to stay well, to get well, and to get better.

A. To stay well, nurses can evaluate how healthy people really are and then teach them about good nutrition, adequate exercise and good health habits – ways to stay well.

B. To get well, nurses care for patients who have surgery, for babies who are just born, for people who have illnesses like diabetes and ulcers and for people who are very seriously ill with heart disease or cancer.

C. To get better, nurses work with people who have had serious car accidents or sports accidents, with folks who have birth defects so they can do as much as possible and with the elderly who want to stay in their homes rather than going to a nursing home.
When you are learning all this, you have a lot of hands-on experience. You do that in hospitals and nursing homes, and in home nursing assignments. Nursing education provides one of the most hands-on learning experiences of all the fields.
You will always be expected to come to the clinical unit well prepared. You will need to know what is wrong with the patient, what medications the patient is going to be getting and what procedures need to be done. It’s a lot of work finding out all of those things, but once you do the work, you know all of those things. It will make you feel like a real nurse!
When I graduated, I wanted to work in ________________________. There are so many other possibilities available to nurses today. Nurses work in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, schools as school nurses, colleges as nursing teachers, industry, government and many other places.
Do nurses make a lot of money? Well, when they first graduate, nurses earn more than almost all other college graduates. From then on, it depends upon the type of work nurses choose to do. Nurses can work full-time or part-time. They work around the world. Some work as traveling nurses so they get to see parts of the U.S. that the rest of us only dream about.
Nurses often are given the option of working three 12-hour days a week, so they have more time for recreational activities, hobbies, studying for a higher degree, or being with family and friends.

Do nurses have to work evenings, nights, and weekends? In some places, like hospitals and nursing homes, they usually do; in others, like schools and insurance companies, they may not.
Should you consider nursing if you are a woman? Absolutely.
Should you consider nursing if you are a man? Absolutely. For much of the 20th Century, men were put at a disadvantage in nursing. That is no longer true and the profession is working to turn this disparity around. We need a much higher percentage of men in nursing today. It should be more like 50%, rather than 5.4%, which is the current estimate.
Should you consider nursing if you are a minority? Absolutely. Most nurses are white Caucasian women. But many patients prefer to be cared for by someone who is more like them. Increasingly, the population of the U.S. is becoming more ethnically diverse and there will be an increasing need for male nurses, Hispanic nurses and African-American nurses.
So, consider nursing. And encourage your friends to consider nursing.
What are your questions?