CAREER FOCUS: ENGINEER MANAGER

Steve manages engineering projects at the Green Bank Observatory, making sure they reach their goals.

When have you set a goal? Did you achieve it? How did you have to change your plans?

What does an engineer manager do?
Steve is in charge of directing technical projects, supervising the people who work on those projects, and budgeting the money that comes with each project. He also tests electronic equipment to make sure everything runs smoothly.

What makes a good engineer manager?
Engineer managers should be good at writing, have excellent leadership, and have a solid foundation in math and science. They also must be patient and have perseverance; engineering projects require a lot of reworking, which can be frustrating.

How do I become an engineer manager?
There are plenty of opportunities to hone your leadership and problem-solving skills where you are. For example, Steve has a master’s degree in electrical engineering, but he is also an athletic coach and a mechanic!