LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA Finance Park® Advanced

▶ Financial Literacy

JA Finance Park is Junior Achievement's capstone curriculum for personal financial planning and career exploration. This educator-led classroom curriculum culminates with a visit to *JA Finance Park*, a realistic on-site or mobile facility, or virtually in the classroom, where participants engage with volunteers and put into practice what they've learned by developing a personal budget. A new advanced curriculum and simulation gives teens and young adults a more personal focus. Participants select their career and define their future lifestyle and financial goals. The advanced simulation allows participants to see the long-term impact of their education, savings, and credit decisions.

This learning experience has a primary focus of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway and a secondary focus of the Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be placed in Grades 9–12 and post-high school. The learning experience is primarily educator-led but also requires volunteers.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

- Flexible options to participate at an on-site or mobile facility, or virtually:
  - Deliver activities using tailored volunteer guides, or assist with curriculum sessions
  - Work with participants during the simulation
- Minimum of 3 hours required

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Digital and print learning experience materials with flexible options for delivery and learning.
- Foundation (required) sessions engage participants in collaborative, experiential activities and projects.
- Participants have access to self-paced online extension activities.

ON-SITE SIMULATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Deep dive into financial consequences of life choices and decisions impacting long-term goals.
- Choose an "adult adventure," where participants select personas based on career and education selections.
- Navigate financial decisions through various life stages, budgeting beyond one month.
- Includes updated volunteer role during simulation visit and new volunteer resources.

Junior Achievement™

© 2026–2027 Junior Achievement USA

JA Finance Park Advanced

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

1 Theme One: Employment and Income

Participants will learn how career choices can affect personal income potential. This theme consists of two educator-led foundation sessions that are 45 minutes in length. There are also several optional self-guided extension activities available to deepen and expand on the foundational learning, including topics such as My Work Values and Entrepreneurial Strengths and Talents.

2 Theme Two: Employment and Education

Participants will begin planning for their futures by exploring different occupations and secondary education options. This theme consists of one 45-minute educator-led session. Optional self-guided extension activities include topics such as Paying for Post-Secondary Education and Interpreting a Financial Aid Award Letter.

3 Theme Three: Financial Responsibility and Decision Making

Participants will consider the importance of setting and prioritizing financial goals and the decision-making steps needed to obtain them. This theme consists of one 45-minute educator-led session. Optional self-guided extension activities include topics such as Buying your First Car and Philanthropy.

4 Theme Four: Planning and Money Management

Participants will learn budgeting concepts to improve their understanding of how to manage their personal finances. This theme consists of one 45-minute educator-led session. Optional self-guided extension activities include topics such as Extracurricular Expenses and A World Without Cash.

5 Theme Five: Risk Management and Insurance

Young adults under thirty often think they do not need life, health, and disability insurance. Participants will discover that the decision to purchase insurance takes careful thought and consideration. This theme consists of one 45-minute educator-led session. There are two optional self-guided extension activities: Auto Insurance and Mortgages.

6 Theme Six: Investing

Participants will explore the advantages of investing in a diversified portfolio as part of a personal financial plan. Participants will learn about a variety of investment options and explore reasons for investing, such as retirement. This theme consists of one 45-minute educator-led session. There are two optional self-guided extension activities: Purchasing Stocks and Investing for Retirement.

7 Theme Seven: Simulation and Debrief

Participants will participate in the *JA Finance Park* simulation (at an on-site or mobile facility, or virtually). Then participants will reflect on the activities they participated in during the simulation and engage in an activity to connect their learnings and takeaways from the simulation to their future career and money management goals.