LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

JA Future Ready Leaders™

▶ Work and Career Readiness



JA Future Ready Leaders is a leadership development learning experience for students in Grades 9–12 that prepares them to lead through character, communication, and intentional decision-making. Rather than learning about leadership in the abstract, students practice it in realistic situations, reflect on how they respond, and apply those skills in an authentic classroom setting. *JA Future Ready Leaders* culminates in an Applied Learning Experience, where students facilitate Junior Achievement sessions for Grades K–5 students in elementary classrooms.

This learning experience is designed for Grades 9–12 students and offers two tracks with optional digital assets offered throughout:

- Volunteer Track: Two 45-minute sessions and the Applied Learning Experience.
- Leadership Track: Five 45-minute sessions and the Applied Learning Experience.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

After participating in the learning experience, students will be able to:

- Understand leadership as behavior rooted in character, not authority or title.
- Pause, assess, and make thoughtful decisions when multiple needs compete.
- Communicate clearly and respond to what others need in the moment.
- Adjust calmly and intentionally when plans do not go as expected.
- Facilitate lessons for Grades K–5 students with clarity, confidence, and inclusive leadership.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Five 45-minute sessions and an Applied Learning Experience: three Leadership sessions help students develop leadership, decision-making, and reflections skills, while two prep sessions equip students to facilitate JA learning experiences with younger students. The experience culminates in an Applied Learning Experience where students serve as facilitators in classroom settings.

Experiential, collaborative learning that develops leadership and facilitation skills: students engage in scenario-based decision-making, role-plays, communication challenges, hands-on exploration of JA instructional materials, and reflection activities that build confidence and prepare them to lead learning experiences for younger students.

Authentic leadership practice through service learning: students apply leadership, communication, problem-solving, adaptability, and teamwork skills to facilitate a learning experience for elementary students, then reflect on rubric-based observation feedback to identify strengths, growth areas, and next steps.

Community engagement through applied learning opportunities: students extend their learning beyond the classroom by serving as role models and facilitators for younger learners, connecting leadership development to meaningful community impact.

Work and Career Readiness Content: High school-appropriate content in Work and Career Readiness

Junior Achievement™

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VOLUNTEER TRACK CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview Students:	Objectives Students will be able to:	Activities
PREP SESSION 1 Communicating and Responding as a Facilitator	• Develop communication and facilitation skills that help create engaging and supportive learning experiences for younger students. • Learn to recognize participation cues, adapt to learner needs, and respond effectively to classroom situations.	• Identify key communication behaviors (verbal, nonverbal, listening) that support younger learners. • Recognize common student cues and describe appropriate facilitator responses. • Practice clear and engaging communication while facilitating a short activity. • Set one specific communication goal for their Applied Learning Experience.	• Quick Group Challenge • Responding to What You Notice • Story Remix • Adjusting in Real Time (scenario practice)
PREP SESSION 2 Applied Learning Experience Preparation	• Prepare to facilitate JA learning experiences by exploring curriculum materials, instructional resources, and session structures. • Build confidence for the Applied Learning Experience through facilitation practice and realistic classroom scenarios.	• Identify all major components of a JA K–5 kit and distinguish materials by purpose and function. • Explain how JA sessions are structured and connect each kit material to the part of the session where it is used. • Organize and prepare materials for smooth, confident facilitation during their Applied Learning Experience. • Use key facilitation prep tools—the Facilitator Guide, Volunteer Videos, and jatraining.ja.org—to support preparation for the Applied Learning Experience.	• JA K–5 Kit Exploration • Sorting Challenge • Simon Says: JA Edition • Facilitator Guide Walkthrough • Walkthrough with Wildcards
APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE	• Facilitate JA learning experiences with elementary students, applying leadership, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in authentic settings. • Gain real-world experience serving as role models and leaders while supporting younger learners.	• Communicate clearly using verbal, nonverbal, and listening skills appropriate for Grades K–5 students. • Notice and respond to student participation cues, such as confusion, disengagement, and/or high energy. • Use JA K–5 kit materials accurately and at the correct time during the session(s). • Follow the JA session flow with smooth pacing and minimal downtime. • Make real-time decisions using the Acknowledge → Redirect → Keep Moving strategy. • Demonstrate inclusive leadership by engaging a wide range of students equitably. • Show professional preparedness and organization throughout the session(s).	

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LEADERSHIP TRACK CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview Students:	Objectives Students will be able to:	Activities
LEADERSHIP SESSION 1 Leading With Purpose	• Explore how leadership is expressed through everyday actions, decisions, and character traits rather than titles or positions. • Practice using a Leadership Filter to analyze real-world situations and make thoughtful, values-based decisions.	• Identify leadership traits and explain how they influence decision-making. • Use the Leadership Filter to analyze real-world scenarios and justify their decisions. • Collaborate with peers to evaluate different leadership choices using evidence from a scenario. • Set a specific goal to strengthen a leadership trait in their own behavior.	• Practice using the Leadership Filter • Leadership Carousel
PREP SESSION 1 Communicating and Responding as a Facilitator	• Develop communication and facilitation skills that help create engaging and supportive learning experiences for younger students. • Learn to recognize participation cues, adapt to learner needs, and respond effectively to classroom situations.	• Identify key communication behaviors (verbal, nonverbal, listening) that support younger learners. • Recognize common student cues and describe appropriate facilitator responses. • Practice clear and engaging communication while facilitating a short activity. • Set one specific communication goal for their Applied Learning Experience.	• Quick Group Challenge • Responding to What You Notice • Story Remix • Adjusting in Real Time (scenario practice)
LEADERSHIP SESSION 2 Leading Through Decision-Making	• Strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills through leadership and facilitation scenarios. • Apply a structured decision-making process to evaluate options, consider impacts, and choose appropriate responses.	• Assess unfamiliar situations by identifying what's really happening and who is affected. • Reflect on how intentional, character-driven responses shape their leadership in the Applied Learning Experience.	• Decision Pathways • Complex Problem-Solving
PREP SESSION 2 Applied Learning Experience Preparation	• Prepare to facilitate JA learning experiences by exploring curriculum materials, instructional resources, and session structures. • Build confidence for the Applied Learning Experience through facilitation practice and realistics classroom scenarios.	• Identify all major components of a JA K–5 kit and distinguish materials by purpose and function. • Explain how JA sessions are structured and connect each kit material to the part of the session where it is used. • Organize and prepare materials for smooth, confident facilitation during their Applied Learning Experience. • Use key facilitation prep tools—the Facilitator Guide, Volunteer Videos, and jatraining.ja.org—to support preparation for the Applied Learning Experience.	• JA K–5 Kit Exploration • Sorting Challenge • Simon Says: JA Edition • Facilitator Guide Walkthrough • Walkthrough with Wildcards

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LEADERSHIP SESSION 3 Leading Through Reflection	• Complete a reflection on their Applied Learning Experience to identify leadership strengths, growth areas, and patterns in their actions and decisions. • Use peer feedback, observation rubric results, and self-assessment to set goals and identify next steps for continued leadership development.	• Reflect on their Applied Learning Experience moments to identify strengths and growth areas. • Recognize patterns in their leadership behaviors across different classroom moments. • Communicate what their moments reveal about traits like adaptability, initiative, and self-control. • Identify one leadership skill to take forward and determine where and how they will practice it.	• Guided Reflection • What Facilitation Revealed