LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

JA Personal Finance®

▶ Financial Literacy

JA Personal Finance introduces teens and young adults to the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom. To achieve financial wellness, participants learn about money-management strategies, including earning, employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, smart shopping, risk management, and investing.

Participants also explore how their decisions can affect other people with whom they have relationships and healthy behaviors to discuss and manage shared financial decisions. At the conclusion of this learning experience, participants will identify how their personal finances affect their quality of life. They will understand how their financial choices will be the basis for meeting their needs and wants.

This learning experience is part of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway and can be placed in Grades 9–12 and post-high school. The learning experience is primarily volunteer-led with options for participant self-guided sessions/activities.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Infusion of healthy financial relationships concepts, discussion, and talking points
- Eight 45-minute sessions: Sessions One through Five are required and volunteer-led. Sessions Six through Eight are optional and designed to be participant self-guided activities with educator or volunteer support.
- Sessions Nine through Eleven are optional, modular, self-guided activities focusing on credit cards, debt management, and net worth.

Junior Achievement™

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION ONE Earning, Employment, and Income (Volunteer-led)	Participants learn that healthy personal finances require planning and managing. They begin to analyze the financial implications of their educational and career choices as a basis for understanding the relationship between earnings and personal finance. Participants also explore how their decisions can affect other people with whom they have relationships and practice using healthy behaviors to discuss shared financial decisions.	• Explain how values, priorities, and educational goals can affect career decisions. • Identify employment options that align with your priorities and values. • Recognize how your financial decisions can affect others. • Use healthy relationship behaviors to discuss shared financial decisions.	**Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants are introduced to the term *personal finance* and discuss how making sound financial decisions is important for everyone. **Explore: Earning Money (15–20 minutes)** Participants learn how making choices about how to earn the income they need to pay for their needs and wants is the first step in managing their personal finances. **Discuss: Healthy Financial Relationships (15–20 minutes)** Participants discuss how their financial decisions can affect other people, and how taking responsibility for their financial decisions can affect their family, their friends, and even someone they may not even know yet. **Wrap-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants review key concepts and terms from the session.
SESSION TWO Budgeting (Volunteer-led)	Participants investigate the importance of budgeting and how to plan for staying within a budget. They review characteristics of a healthy relationship and explore how shared budgeting creates opportunities to talk about equality, independence, and respect.	• Recognize the importance of making and keeping a budget or spending plan. • Identify categories of expenses on a budget. • Explain how to use a budget to clarify shared financial decisions with another person. • Prioritize expense categories on a budget.	**Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants are introduced to the concept of budgeting and its importance. **Explore: Budget Basics (15–20 minutes)** Participants learn budgeting terms (*income, expense, budget, fixed expenses, variable expenses, periodic expenses*), categories, and healthy budgeting behaviors. **Get Together: Budget Choices (10–15 minutes)** In this activity, participants play a game that requires making budgeting decisions. **Wrap-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants review key concepts and terms from the session.

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CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	**Objectives** Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION THREE **Savings** **(Volunteer-led)**	Participants analyze the role that saving plays in their personal finances. They explore how having a healthy savings plan is necessary in all phases of life but is especially critical for big-ticket items and emergencies. Participants learn how to apply communication strategies when discussing financial issues.	• Recognize reasons for saving. • Explain how saving can help you earn interest instead of paying interest. • Use strategies to achieve a saving goal. • Recognize unhealthy relationship behaviors related to saving.	**Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants are introduced to key terms for the session. **Explore: Why Save? (10–15 minutes)** Participants learn why saving is important and strategies for achieving savings goals. **Discuss: Healthy Financial Relationships (20–25 minutes)** Participants learn how to use a budget to reduce expenses to allow for saving. They explore how their savings choices can affect people with whom they have relationships. **Wrap-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants review key concepts and terms from the session.
SESSION FOUR **Credit and Debt** **(Volunteer-led)**	Participants analyze the importance of credit and the outcomes of wise and poor use of credit. They examine the potential consequences of sharing credit or cosigning for loans.	• Differentiate between credit and debt. • Recognize the factors that affect an individual's credit score and credit history. • Recognize the consequences of a low credit score. • Recognize the impact of sharing credit cards or cosigning for loans.	**Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants are introduced to key terms for the session. **Discuss: Credit Basics (20–25 minutes)** Participants learn the difference between credit and debt and explore how people's behaviors with credit can affect their credit score. **Get Together: Sharing Credit Decisions (10–15 minutes)** Participants examine the potential consequences of sharing credit or cosigning for loans. **Wrap-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants review key concepts and terms from the session.

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CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION FIVE **Consumer Protection (Volunteer-led)**	Participants explore consumer protection basics, including how to avoid scams, manage their money, use credit and loans carefully, and protect their personal information. They learn some of the risks associated with sharing finances with others.	• List ways to protect online information. • Recognize how a credit report can help identify suspicious activity related to your finances. • Recognize risks involved with sharing finances.	**Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants are introduced to key terms for the session. **Discuss: Securing Your Online Information (10–15 minutes)** Participants learn how to identify suspicious online behavior as well as strategies for protecting their online information. **Get Together: Sharing Finances (20–25 minutes)** Participants learn some of the risks associated with sharing finances with other people and develop a tip sheet to help people who are trying to decide whether to share an account, a credit card, or a loan with another person. **Wrap-Up (5–10 minutes)** Participants review key concepts and terms from the session.

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Sessions Six, Seven, and Eight are three optional, self-guided sessions; the educator or a volunteer introduces and wraps up each session.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	**Objectives** Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION SIX **Smart Shopping**	This optional, self-guided activity focuses on making informed purchasing decisions to maximize buying power. Participants learn about comparison shopping and participate in a simulated shopping experience. They explore communicating with other people about consumer behaviors and shared shopping.	• Identify the factors necessary for making an informed purchase. • Compare and contrast prices and data when making a purchase decision. • Calculate savings gained through smart shopping.	**Warm-up (5 minutes)** The educator or a volunteer introduces the session. **Expectations and Procedures: Smart Shopping (20 minutes)** Participants interact with and learn through the online session content. Activities include: What Would You Do? Scenarios; Comparison Shopping; and Shop 'til You Drop. **Wrap-Up (5 minutes)** The educator or a volunteer reviews the session's key terms and leads a debrief discussion with participants.
SESSION SEVEN **Risk Management**	This optional, self-guided activity focuses on risks that can lead to financial loss. Participants practice applying appropriate risk management strategies in scenarios and learn how to discuss risk management and manage the risks associated with shared financial choices.	• Recognize risk of financial loss as an everyday reality for everyone. • Recognize risk management strategies and apply them appropriately. • Understand the role of personal responsibility in preventing financial loss.	**Warm-up (5 minutes)** The educator or a volunteer introduces the session. **Expectations and Procedures: Risk Management (20 minutes)** Participants interact with and learn through the online session. Activities include: Risk Management Scenarios; Strategy Quick Sort; and Risky Trivia. **Wrap-up (5 minutes)** The educator or a volunteer reviews the session's key terms and leads a debrief discussion with participants.

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CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION EIGHT **Investing**	This optional, self-guided activity explores the difference between saving and investing, the advantages and potential returns of investing, and common types of investment products. Participants also learn about various types of investment risks and self-assess their personal investment risk tolerance and communication with others about shared investments.	• Evaluate investments with different levels of risk and reward. • Describe the role that compound interest plays in wealth over time. • Recognize that investment options carry different levels of risk and reward. • Analyze the risk tolerances for different investment strategies. • Recognize the importance of practicing healthy relationship behaviors in shared investment decisions.	**Warm-up (5 minutes)** The educatorr or a volunteer introduces the session. **Expectations and Procedures: Investing (20 minutes)** Participants interact with and learn through the online session. Activities include: How the Penny Grows; Savings vs. Investing; and Investment Advisor. **Wrap-Up (5 minutes)** The educator or a volunteer reviews the session’s key terms and leads a debrief discussion with participants.

Sessions Nine, Ten, and Eleven are modular sessions that contain several self-guided activities that can be used in any order or combination. The learning objectives for each session vary depending on which activity, or activities, are implemented. All possible learning objectives are listed in the outline below.

For these three optional, modular sessions, the educator or a volunteer introduces and wraps up each self-guided activity.

OPTIONAL, SELF-GUIDED CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION NINE **Credit Cards**	This optional, modular session consists of four 10-minute, self-guided activities focused on various aspects of credit cards. Topics include their purpose, uses, advantages and disadvantages, consumers' rights, and the responsibilities of shared credit.	• Define the term credit card. • Understand the difference between a credit card and a debit card. • Discuss the reasons to use and not to use a credit card. • Describe how using a credit card can impact their credit rating for better or worse. • Discuss some of the pros and cons of sharing a credit card. • Recognize many types of credit cards. • Differentiate between positive and negative features of credit cards. • Identify appropriate credit cards for various situations. • Recognize which kinds of cards to avoid. • Define the meaning of many important credit card terms. • Recognize their consumer rights under the Credit Card Act of 2009. • Recognize where to get help with credit issues.	**Credit Card Basics (10 min.)** Participants interact with and learn from the online activity about credit cards as forms of short-term financing and the pros and cons of credit cards. **Types of Credit Cards (10 min.)** Participants interact with and learn from the online activity about different kinds of credit cards They learn to choose the right kind of card for individual needs. **Credit Card Terms (10 min.)** This interactive activity defines and demystifies the jargon and terms associated with credit card statements and contracts to acquaint participants with the lingo required to understand credit cards. **Credit Card Rights and Protections (10 min.)** Participants explore consumer rights and responsibilities under the Credit Card Act of 2009.

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OPTIONAL, SELF-GUIDED CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION TEN **Debt Management**	This optional, modular session consists of five 10-minute, self-guided activities focused on debt management, including the responsibilities of shared debt.	• Recognize the process, purpose, and outcomes of declaring bankruptcy. • Identify the different types of bankruptcy. • Evaluate the pros and cons of declaring bankruptcy in different situations. • Analyze the impact of bankruptcy when debt is shared. • Define a loan. • Identify responsibilities of shared debt. • Recognize consequences of failing to pay loans on time. • Compare and contrast desirable and undesirable debt. • Identify resources for help with debt repayment and management. • Formulate strategies for managing individual and shared debt. • Identify the consequences of failing to pay back loans. • Analyze the options available for people who can't afford to pay back their loans. • Evaluate the implications of cosigning for a loan that is not paid back. • Define what a consumer credit counseling service is and how they help people.	**What Is Bankruptcy? (10 min.)** This interactive activity explains the process, purpose, and impacts of declaring bankruptcy as a last resort-option to debt management. **What Is a Loan? (10 min.)** This interactive activity explains loans, the responsibilities of shared debt, and the consequences of failing to pay loans on time. **Managing Debt (10 min.)** This interactive activity describes desirable and undesirable debt, how to seek help with debt repayment and management, and strategies for managing individual and shared debt. **Defaulting on a Loan (10 min.)** This interactive activity describes the consequences of failing to pay back loans. **Consumer Credit Counseling Services (10 min.)** This interactive activity explores consumer credit-counseling services, the services they provide, and how to evaluate their legitimacy.

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OPTIONAL, SELF-GUIDED CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives Participants will be able to:	Activities
SESSION ELEVEN **Net Worth**	This optional, modular session consists of three 10-minute, self-guided activities focused on net worth, including shared net worth.	• Define net worth. • Explore the process of determining net worth. • Summarize the different types of net worth. • Investigate the significance of shared net worth. • Calculate their own net worth. • Identify SMART financial goals based on priorities and values. • Identify three ways to build wealth. • Explain how they can build wealth through passive income. • Describe how long-term investing and compounding interest can build wealth. • Compare various types of investment vehicles. • Explore the pros and cons of shared investment.	**What Is Your Net Worth? (10 min.)** Participants explore net worth and the process of determining net worth. **Setting Financial Goals (10 min.)** Participants learn how to set SMART financial goals. **Investing to Build Wealth (10 min.)** Participants learn how to build wealth through passive income and long-term investing.