



National Junior Achievement Titan Challenge 2026

Competition Guidelines and Criteria

Updated December 2025

Step into what's next at Future Bound by Junior Achievement, *where possibilities are limitless and connections shape tomorrow*. This event brings together students, educators, and industry leaders to explore hands-on learning experiences, unlock new career pathways, and gain the skills needed to thrive in the evolving world of work. Prepare to be inspired, empowered, and Future Bound!

Eligibility

Permitted Minimum and Maximum Age of Participants

Students representing their teams in the competition must have been enrolled in high school during the 2025-2026 school year and must have participated in *JA Titan* classroom learning experience following the [JA Learning Experience Implementation Standards](#) (including completing the full curriculum with the required minimum volunteer-led contact hours). Middle school students or students who graduated prior to 2026 will automatically be asked to withdraw from the competition. Students that fall outside of these guidelines can only be approved to participate by the Chief Education and Learning Technology Officer and the local JA Area President.

Due to requirements from 2026 Future Bound by JA host Boston University, all student participants must be 18 years of age or younger for the entire duration of Future Bound. Participants are ineligible if they have reached their 19th birthday at any time prior to or during the event dates, June 7-11, 2026.

Number of Participants per Team

For the competition, a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) students are allowed to represent their student team at Future Bound.

National JA Titan Challenge Information

Overview

The National JA Titan Challenge is not simply an economics-based game for young people. In this dynamic competition, participating teams are challenged to make critical executive decisions in key areas and teams must apply essential 21st century skills—like critical thinking, data analysis, strategic planning, communication, and adaptability—as they compete. Success requires balancing profitability with social impact while responding to evolving market conditions and outperforming the competition.

Winners will be determined by the highest total victory currencies at the end of the competition. First, second, and third place honors will be awarded.

Submission and Selection Timeline

September 15 – November 28	JA Area Submits Intent to Register
November 28 – April 24	JA Area Submits Team Reports, Due April 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team Report - Names of the potential student competitors - BU Student Permission forms
April 30, 2026	Finalists Announced by JA USA to JA Areas
May 1, 2026	JA Area Team Registration Due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each JA Area with a finalist team must complete and submit a form confirming student and chaperone contact information.
May 1 – May 6	Finalists Complete All Event Registration Forms, Due May 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each student team member and chaperone must complete and submit an online registration form and agreement to the conduct standards.
May 19 – May 20	Mandatory Chaperone Orientation (two options provided)
June 7– 11	Future Bound by JA in Boston, MA

Process and Eligibility

- JA Area offices must submit an [Intent to Register](#) form, simply sharing that they plan to submit and register a team(s) for Future Bound and the National JA Titan Challenge. The deadline to submit to JA USA is Friday, November 28, 2025. Should there be more than 25 teams represented after the 11/28 deadline, qualifying criteria for team and finalist selection will be introduced.
- If qualifying criteria are introduced, eligible JA Titan Challenge teams wishing to be considered must provide their local JA Area with their JA Titan Challenge Team Report. The JA Area office will collect these Team Reports and submit them to JA USA. The deadline to submit Team Reports to JA USA is Friday, April 24, 2025.

- JA Areas throughout the United States may submit three (3) JA Titan Challenge Team Reports for participation. Satellite or District offices are considered part of the overarching JA Area and should work with their JA Area office to determine team participation and eligibility.
- JA Titan Challenge teams must have participated in *JA Titan* [JA Learning Experience Implementation](#) Standards (including completing the full curriculum with the required minimum volunteer-led contact hours) during the 2025-2026 school year.
- All submitted materials must be the original work of the JA Titan Challenge Team.
- Only JA Area staff may register student teams for consideration. Upon receipt of the above materials, the JA Area must:
 - Complete the online submission for the JA Team here: [JA Titan Challenge Nomination Form – Fill out form](#)
 - Upload the team report in PDF format.
 - Upload team information
 - Upload completed permission forms for Boston University for each student who would represent the team at Future Bound.

Finalist Selection

After the April 24 team submission deadline, each Team Report will be evaluated through a judging process to determine the finalists.

- A panel comprised of JA representatives will be convened for the review process.
- The panel will score JA Titan Challenge Team Report based on the provided judging criteria.
- The selection panel will submit finalists to JA USA.
- Up to 25 teams will be selected as finalists for advancement to the National JA Titan Challenge at Future Bound.

Announcement of Finalists

The finalists will be announced on Thursday, April 30, 2026. JA USA will email JA Area representatives, who will then inform applicants.

Competition Stages

There are three stages to the competition:

- Stage One: Student Team Report Submission (By April 24, 2026)
- Stage Two: Finalist Selection (By April 30, 2026)
- Stage Three: Onsite competition and Future Bound (June 7-11).

Stage One: Student Team Report Submission

The Team Report is an opportunity for teams to showcase their business strategy, the research and analysis they have conducted, and their understanding of market dynamics and decision-making within the JA Titan simulation. This report allows teams to distinguish themselves by demonstrating their strategic thinking, collaboration, and ability to apply business concepts in a competitive environment. The team report will be used to determine finalists for the National JA Titan Challenge at Future Bound.

Guidelines

The report should follow the format of the JA Titan Challenge Team Report Template (which can be downloaded here: <https://data.ja.org/s/a2EAAA>). The report must follow the format of the submission template; however, teams may change the visual design of the document and add text and images. The content must follow the same order laid out in the template; no sections may be added, removed, or rearranged.

- Any relevant and unique activities undertaken by the JA team should be included.
- A PDF copy of the report must be submitted electronically to JA USA by the local JA Area as part of the team's competition submission. Deadline: April 24, 2026.
- No appendices are allowed. The report must be free from any factual, spelling, or grammatical errors and should be visually pleasing.
- View a video overview of the submission template here: <https://data.ja.org/s/b2EAAA>.

Judging Criteria

Articulation of Strategy

- The report should provide thoughtful and accurate articulation of the strategy behind department budget allocations and priorities.
- The strategy should reflect a clear understanding of the relationship between businesses, the economy, and consumer choice.

Decision Making

- The report should include a comprehensive and accurate analysis of the sample data.
- The report should reflect a clear understanding of how the economy, competitors in the market, and consumer preference impact revenue. It should include well-reasoned guidance.

Organization and Collaboration

- The report should showcase the team collaboration and delegation of duties. It should highlight the ways in which team members support each other throughout the competition and the contributions of all team members.

Learning Experiences and Future Application

- The report should outline the relationship between the simulation and real-world business and economics. It should clearly articulate the ways in which competitors will utilize the skills gained through their participation in JA Titan.

Stage Two: Finalist Selection

Please refer to finalist selection process on Page 2.

Stage Three: On-Site Competition

Student teams will compete as CEOs in a dynamic business simulation, managing a company in the highly competitive cell phone industry. Over multiple business cycles, teams will make critical decisions in areas such as pricing, production, marketing, R&D, and corporate social responsibility. Each round challenges students to adapt to shifting market conditions and outperform competitors. Success requires strategic thinking, teamwork, and business acumen. The goal: maximize company performance and market share by the final round. The following guidelines and rules will be enforced throughout competition play:

Competition Format

- Each team starts with \$2,000,000.
- The competition spans two rounds of gameplay, with each quarter lasting 5 minutes.
- One short break will occur between rounds.

Competition Rules and Guidelines

- Each team will be provided with a unique login and password by JA USA.
- No personal devices (phones, laptops, calculators) or notes may be used.
- No outside coaching or assistance is permitted during gameplay or breaks.
- Chaperones and any other non-participating observers are not permitted to step foot onto the competition floor during game play or interact with teams during breaks.
- Failure to adhere to any of the rules stated above will result in disqualification for the participating team.

Competition Resources

- At the National JA Titan Challenge, each team will be provided with:
 - Device for game play
 - Scratch paper
 - Pen/Pencil
- Use this Strategy Guide to assist in practice and preparation for the event: [JA Titan Challenge: Strategy Guide](#)

Signature Awards

In addition to the National JA Titan Challenge, participants will also have the opportunity to compete for other prestigious awards at Future Bound. Details on these awards will be provided to finalists in mid-May.

Questions

Contact competitions@ja.org