LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA Career Speakers Series®

▶ Work and Career Readiness

In *JA Career Speakers Series*, a volunteer guest speaker visits the classroom and shares information about his or her career, work, and education experience. The speaker may bring props, samples of his or her work, or other visuals to help engage participants. Activities and implementation design will vary based on participants' level.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

Participant objectives will vary based on participants' level. Participants will:

- Identify skills and interests.
- Recognize career clusters.
- Practice active listening skills.

This learning experience is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be placed in grades K–12 and post-high school, in-school or after-school/out-of-school.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Structured educator and volunteer guides and student handouts available for download
- Includes an optional pre-speaker session (educator-led) and an optional post-speaker session (educator-led)
- Four versions tailored toward Grades K–2, Grades 3–5, Grades 6–8, and Grades 9–12 and post-high school

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

The *JA Career Speakers Series* activities will vary based on participants' level.

Below is a sample outline for high school and post-high school.

Before the Speaker Event (educator-led, optional session)

- Educator prepares participants for guest speaker and reviews materials.
- Participants research jobs and background related to guest speaker's profession.
- Optional supplements may also be completed.

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During the Speaker Event (volunteer-led, required session)

- Volunteer speaker shares his or her job experiences and stories to offer insight and guidance for career education.
- Educator remains in the classroom during the entire visit to maintain classroom discipline and help foster participant engagement.
- Participants engage with the volunteer and take notes in their Student Guides.

After the Event (educator-led, optional session)

- Participants report one or two of the most significant things they each learned from the preparation and speaker event.
- Participants write a thank you note to the speaker. They should use proper business letter format and include at least three examples of what they learned about the speaker's company, his or her job, and the skill and preparation necessary for that job.
- Participants are assigned to pairs and each pair chooses a team name. Using a template in the Student Guide, the pairs create a Career Cluster Scavenger Hunt. Each pair completes the answer key and citations for each of their questions.
- Optional supplements may also be completed.

Visit https://connect.ja.org/, JA Connect® Resource Guide https://data.ja.org/s/DAkAAA, and https://career.ja.org/ for additional resources.