

JA Finance Park®

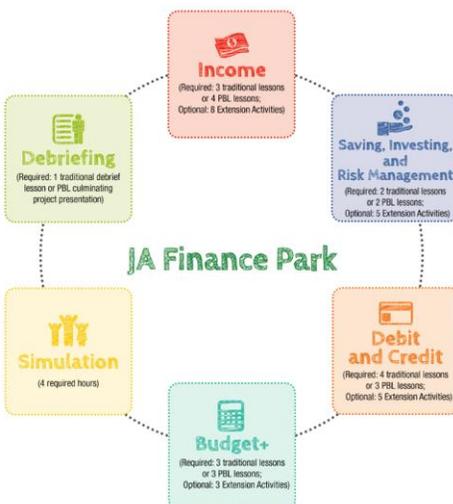
Hands-on classroom activities and a real-world simulation provide *JA Finance Park* students with a solid foundation for making intelligent, personal-finance decisions throughout their lives. The capstone program culminates in a simulation experience in which middle and high school students put their newly acquired money-management skills to the test.

“The program was exceptionally organized and the students were engaged. They enjoyed hands-on learning, the use of technology, and real-world applications.”—*JA Finance Park* volunteer



—2014 Junior Achievement USA/
Allstate Foundation Teens and
Personal Finance Survey

Following participation in the program, students will be able to:



- Identify personal interests, skills, work preferences, and values.
- Identify career interests.
- Evaluate the risks and benefits of saving and investing.
- Evaluate risk and recognize insurance as a way to minimize it.
- Define taxes; explain their purpose and how they affect everyone.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit and debit cards.
- Describe who uses a budget and why.
- Identify the components of a successful budget using hypothetical life situations.

JA Finance Park Simulation

By adopting “real-life” personas, students learn to construct and adhere to a personal budget that includes typical expenses such as housing and food, saving, transportation, childcare, entertainment, health care, insurance, utilities, clothing, and education.

Students put their classroom studies into action and face “adult” financial problems by making relevant money-management decisions. Should they buy a pricey sports car or a practical minivan? How much money should they put in a savings account? How much can they set aside for philanthropic giving? What kind of housing can they realistically afford? This enlightening simulated experience gives students a solid base on which to form a lifetime of effective financial habits.



Imagine you're a 27-year-old single parent earning \$25,000 a year as an office assistant, or perhaps you're a 35-year-old regional manager making \$65,000 annually. How will you manage your money? At *JA Finance Park*, students act as adults for a day and make personal financial decisions in a realistic "city" simulation. Regardless of the role students are assigned to play, they develop enduring financial skills by participating in classroom-based and simulated experiences.

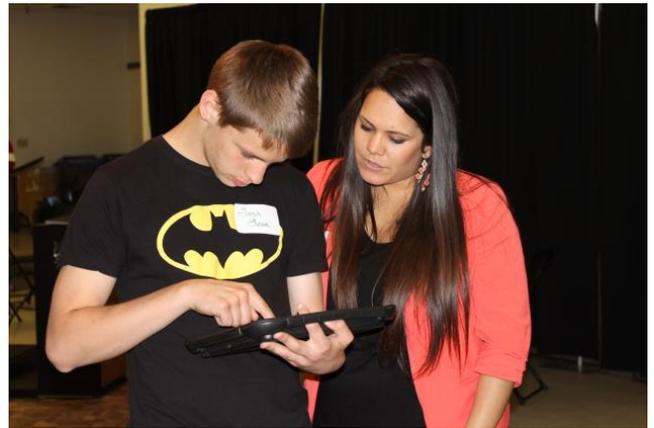
"Students realize truly how much their actual living expenses are when they are considered adults...It was a reality check when they realized as adults how much housing, childcare, and having an automobile costs."

—*JA Finance Park* teacher

Volunteer to Teach JA Finance Park

Join Junior Achievement's national network of more than 213,000 classroom volunteers to help the students in your community connect the dots between what they learn in school and the "business of life"—work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

Before you present *JA Finance Park*, Junior Achievement staff will provide comprehensive training and share the goals of the simulation experience. You will become familiar with the daily schedule, the work expected of the students, and your role and responsibilities as a volunteer. You also will be instructed on how to use the Volunteer Guide and Volunteer Checklist to help facilitate the program. Volunteers are key to the success of *JA Finance Park*. From the beginning of the volunteer training until the end of the simulation, JA staff will be available to answer all your questions.



The time commitment at *JA Finance Park* is minimal compared to the significant impact you will make on the lives of young people. The volunteer day, composed of a full training and the simulation experience, will pass quickly and leave you astonished by how much the students accomplish in such a short period of time.

Sample Schedule:

- 8:00-9:30 AM - Volunteer orientation and training
- 9:30-9:45AM - Student arrival and orientation
- 9:45-10:30AM - Students discover their new lives and discuss paying yourself first
- 10:30-11:30AM - Volunteers lead students through research of items in a typical family budget
- 11:30-12:00AM - Students create a budget on what they think things cost in the real world
- 12:00-12:30PM - Lunch
- 12:30-1:10PM - Students see real world prices for the first time and have to shop within their limits
- 1:10-1:40PM - Students lock in their choices and pay their bills
- 1:40-2:00PM - Students review their decisions, attend a group debrief, and head back to school

"I learned that keeping a budget is very important. Luxurious things like entertainment and expensive cars aren't a necessity in life. You need to make some sacrifices to be stable."—*JA Finance Park* student

How to Get Involved

For details on how to inspire students in your community to succeed, visit Junior Achievement's website www.jaorswwa.org, or contact your local JA office at ghuntington@ja-pdx.org.