



JA Finance Park® Pre-Training Overview

Program Overview



JA Finance Park helps area middle and high school students build a foundation upon which they can make intelligent financial decisions that last a lifetime, including decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit. The *JA Finance Park* program begins with a three-to-six-week classroom curriculum, which provides personal finance lessons and learning activities that align with state learning standards. Through these lessons, students learn about financial institutions, taxes and salaries, and budgeting. A supplemental *JA Career Exploration Guide* offers enhanced exploration of local educational and career opportunities.

The classroom curriculum culminates with a visit to our State-of-the-art mobile Finance Park facility, where students put their learning into practice. During this one-day experience, students “become” adults faced with real-life financial situations and choices. Each student is given a personal profile that includes details relating to his or her simulated family, educational background, career, and income-level. Then, the students are immersed in a reality-based experience that involves individual and family budgeting and decisions relating to housing, transportation, food, utilities, health care, investments, philanthropy, and banking. At all times, adult volunteers guide students toward sound financial and lifestyle choices.

On-Site Simulation Overview

Students work on iPads as they navigate through **five phases** of the day – **Set-Up and Savings, Research, Budget, Shopping, and Payment**. As a volunteer, you will assist a group of 6-8 students, guiding them through each phase and sharing personal financial tips.

On the morning of your *JA Finance Park* volunteer day, you will receive a 90 minute on-site training which covers your responsibilities for the day and walk you through a full simulation. This will take place prior to the students’ arrival.

The information below will be discussed in more detail during the on-site orientation; however, we encourage you to review the material prior to your volunteer day to familiarize yourself with the five phases.



Phase 1 – Set-Up and Savings

- Volunteers lead a discussion in which students share highlights of their assigned persona, including income, job title and education background, marital status, if they have children, existing savings and debt, and their credit score.
- Students calculate their Net Monthly Income (NMI) and their household total NMI.
- Volunteers lead a discussion on savings and students decide what they will set a savings goal. They then allocate that amount into three savings funds.

The screenshot shows a financial planning interface for a persona named Sean. On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with icons for Sean, his spouse, and two children. Sean's profile is the main focus, displaying his name, job title, age, marital status, and number of children. A summary table shows his gross annual and monthly income, credit score, and various debts and savings. Below this, there are sections for educational background, job responsibilities, and career advancement opportunities. A 'Next' button is visible in the bottom right corner.

Sean
Computer Support Specialist
29 Years | Married | Children: 2

Account No: 10101 | PIN: 7101

Sponsored by:

My Gross Annual Income	\$46,000	Credit Score	700
My Gross Monthly Income	\$3,833	Educational Debt	\$11,000
		Credit Card Debt	\$610
		Retirement Savings	\$69,000
		Emergency Fund	\$0
		Other Savings	\$1,250

Educational Background
Associate's Degree

Job Responsibilities
Works in information-technology departments and responds to problems that employees have with technical equipment, most often computers. Troubleshoots software and hardware issues.

Career Advancement Opportunity
Additional education in computer technology will provide increased job opportunities.

Next



Phase 2 - Research

- Volunteers lead their group of students as they visit each business and read information for each business/budget category.
- Utilizing discussion questions, volunteers initiate group discussion with students about their research discoveries and share personal experience and suggestions about budgeting.
- Students must unlock every business in order to continue to the Budget phase.

The screenshot shows the JA Finance Park app interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Junior Achievement logo and the text "JA Finance Park". To the right of the navigation bar are three icons: "Life Scenario", "Research", and "Calculator". Below the navigation bar, there is a green banner with the text "Go to each business below, tap on the associated icon and enter the unique Business ID to unlock each expense category." and "20 of 20 businesses unlocked". The main content area displays a grid of 20 business cards, each with a logo, a name, and a green lock icon. The businesses are: AAA - Auto Insurance, AAA - Home & Renters ..., Columbia Sportswear - ..., Fred Meyer - Grocery, Fun Money - Entertain..., House & Home - Credit ..., JAFP Auto Park - Trans..., JAFP Health Benefits - ..., JAFP Realty - Housing, KeyBank - Auto Loan, KeyBank - Mortgage, KinderCare - Child Care, NWCUF - Education, Pacific Power - Electricity, Philanthropy, The Standard - Disabilit..., and US Bank - Investment. At the bottom right of the screen, there is a green button labeled "Create Budget".

Phase 3 - Budget



- Students build a monthly budget, informed by their research and volunteer discussion. They must allocate 100% of their NMI.



JA Finance Park®



Determine your budget for each expense category.

NMI \$3,550

Total Budgeted \$441

Left to Allocate \$3,109

	Minimum Recommended		Maximum Recommended		Your Budget	
US Bank - Retirem...	\$71	2.0%	You can budget to pay more than this amount.		\$	300 8.5%
JAFP Realty - Hou...	\$639	18.0%	\$1,065	30.0%	\$	0 0.0%
AAA - Home & Re...	\$36	1.0%	\$107	3.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Pacific Power - El...	\$107	3.0%	\$142	4.0%	\$	0 0.0%
JAFP Auto Park - ...	\$355	10.0%	\$462	13.0%	\$	0 0.0%
AAA - Auto Insura...	\$36	1.0%	\$107	3.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Fred Meyer - Groc...	\$178	5.0%	\$888	25.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Columbia Sportsw...	\$107	3.0%	\$355	10.0%	\$	0 0.0%
House & Home - ...	\$31	0.9%	You can budget to pay more than this amount.		\$	31 0.9%
JAFP Health Bene...	\$71	2.0%	\$533	15.0%	\$	0 0.0%
KinderCare - Child...	\$639	18.0%	\$959	27.0%	\$	0 0.0%
NWCUF - Education	\$110	3.1%	You can budget to pay more than this amount.		\$	110 3.1%
Philanthropy	No minimum value. You can budget at your will.		No maximum value. You can budget at your will.		\$	0 0.0%
The Standard - Di...	\$36	1.0%	\$213	6.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Unexpected Expe...	\$36	1.0%	\$355	10.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Xfinity - Comcast	\$71	2.0%	\$142	4.0%	\$	0 0.0%
Fun Money - Enter...	\$36	1.0%	\$355	10.0%	\$	0 0.0%

Save



Phase 4 – Shopping

- Students stay in their home groups and make shopping selections on their iPads.
- Students discover how close they came to budgeting accurately, based on their wants and needs.

The screenshot displays the JA Finance Park app interface. At the top left is the Junior Achievement logo. The main header includes 'JA Finance Park' and navigation icons for Life Scenario, Research, Budget, Shopping (highlighted), and Calculator. A green bar below the header contains a car icon and a 'Change Category' button. A progress bar shows '\$0 Actual Spent' and '\$0 Your Budget'. A pie chart displays 'NMI \$3,550', 'Spent \$300', and 'Remaining \$3,250'. A sidebar on the left has 'Select' and 'Buy' buttons, with 'Public Transport' selected. Below the sidebar is a 'Sponsored By' section for First Tech. The main content area features a text block about budgeting for transportation, a 'Select the vehicle you want to buy' prompt, and a summary table:

Your total transportation cost	\$0	0 car(s) bought and
		0 public transport selected

Below the table, it states: 'Your approved dealer loan amount is \$18,318 at an interest rate of 4.5% and your maximum monthly payment is \$418. Your approved bank loan amount is \$18,318 at an interest rate of 2.78% and your maximum monthly payment is \$404.' A category filter shows 'Luxury', 'Mini Van / SUV', 'Sedan', 'Sports', and 'Truck'. Three car options are displayed:

Vehicle	Price	Monthly Payment
2004 Jaguar XJR	\$14,999	\$334/mo
2008 Volvo S40	\$12,200	\$271/mo
2009 Cadillac CTS 3.6	\$16,490	\$367/mo

A 'Save' button is located at the bottom right of the screen.



Phase 5 - Payment

- Students pay for all their shopping selections. **Note:** items are paid electronically by making an online payment from their iPads.

The screenshot shows the 'Payment' section of the JA Finance Park interface. At the top, there are navigation icons for 'Life Scenario', 'Research', 'Budget', 'Shopping', and 'Payment'. Below the navigation is a green header with the text: 'You can now pay for your shopping choices. Select the business you want to pay for.' The main content area displays a grid of 14 business categories, each with a logo, name, and payment status:

AAA - Auto Insurance <i>Payment not required</i>	AAA - Home & Renter... <i>To be paid</i>
Columbia Sportsware -... <i>To be paid</i>	Fred Meyer - Grocery <i>To be paid</i>
Fun Money - Entertain... <i>Payment not required</i>	House & Home - Credi... <i>To be paid</i>
JAFP Auto Park - Tran... <i>To be paid</i>	JAFP Health Benefits -... <i>To be paid</i>
JAFP Realty - Housing <i>To be paid</i>	KeyBank - Auto Loan <i>Payment not required</i>
KeyBank - Mortgage <i>Payment not required</i>	KinderCare - Child Care <i>To be paid</i>
NWCUF - Education <i>To be paid</i>	Pacific Power - Electri... <i>To be paid</i>
Philanthropy <i>Payment not required</i>	The Standard - Disabili... <i>To be paid</i>
Unexpected Expense <i>Payment not required</i>	US Bank - Investment <i>Payment not required</i>

Next

Hopefully, this outline provides an understanding of your volunteer role at JA Finance Park.

The most important thing to remember is to have fun and share some budgeting wisdom with the students so we can empower them to own their economic success!!