

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

# JA It's My Future<sup>®</sup> JA in a Day

### ■ Work and Career Readiness



*JA It's My Future* offers practical information about preparing for the working world while still in middle school. Upon completing the program, students will be able to research potential careers in keeping with the interests and skills they hope to develop, and learn how to plan for and keep a job. Students will develop the personal-branding and job-hunting skills needed to earn a job.

The JA in a Day model, based on core content from *JA It's My Future*, consists of five 50-minute sessions led by a volunteer. At the conclusion of the *JA It's My Future* JA in a Day, students will be able to represent themselves professionally, research potential careers, and learn how to plan for a job by writing a resume and conducting themselves appropriately during an interview. They will recognize the importance of technical and soft skills in meeting employer expectations and keeping a job.

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

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

### My Brand

Students learn that they have their own personal brand and that the brand they build today will reflect on them in the future. They examine well-known logos to learn how individuals and companies create their brands and build their reputations. They assess their personal characteristics to define their own brands and then develop logos to represent themselves.

## JA'S TURNKEY VOLUNTEER SOLUTION

### Personalized Placement

JA works with you to ensure you teach at the location and grade level of your choice.

### Comprehensive Training

JA staff provides training so you are comfortable visiting the classroom. Additional optional training resources will be available in JA Connect, the JA Learning Platform, so you are familiar with the program. Training topics include working with students and the classroom teacher, and understanding and facilitating the JA learning experience.

### Flexible Time Commitment through Blended Learning

The time commitment is flexible to maximize the impact you make. Middle school classes include five 50-minute sessions all delivered in a single day.

JA provides you with online access to the volunteer, teacher, and student materials you'll need to fit your schedule.

### JA Staff Follow-Up and Support

JA staff is available to answer your questions or make suggestions about your volunteer assignment.

# JA It's My Future JA in a Day

## Career Paths, Clusters, and High-Growth Careers

Students are introduced to the 16 career clusters and the pathways through them. They take a career interest survey and learn about potential jobs within their preferred clusters. Students learn about the importance of being aware of which fields are growing and which are declining when making decisions about their own careers. They play a game that introduces information about high-growth occupations.

## Career Mapping

Students see how early experiences can build transferable skills that contribute to future job success. They look at the lives of celebrities, focusing on the life experiences that led to their success. They learn about career maps by examining a sample and then create their own.

## On the Hunt

Students are introduced to the basics of looking, applying, and interviewing for a job. They learn the fundamentals of creating a resume and engage in a simulation in which they identify appropriate skills for various jobs and decide on where to highlight those skills on a resume.

## Soft Skills

Students learn about the differences between technical and soft skills and why both are essential for getting and keeping a job. Students complete a soft skills self-evaluation to determine which skills they already have and which they can work toward gaining. Finally, they role-play situations that require strong soft skills.

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

