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Junior Achievement

Inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy

Junior Achievement (JA) connects adults with local classrooms to bring financial literacy, college and career readiness and entrepreneurship education to life for K-12 students. JA provides unique access and an engaging structure for volunteers to interact with a classroom of students, share their personal story, and facilitate fun and engaging JA lessons designed to help students reach their full potential. These volunteer led JA lessons are all interactive and age appropriate, with a different program for each grade level. Lessons focus on preparing students to become good citizens, good workers and good consumers through innovative, hands-on activities. JA programming can be facilitated by an adult volunteer without prior experience in a classroom. JA provides all curriculum, materials and training to make this unique volunteer experience easy to execute.

Classroom Opportunities

Opportunities to teach JA programming are located in 2,500 classrooms across the Twin Cities. JA volunteers can facilitate a classroom learning experience for students in two different ways:

Weekly Delivery. Through this model, a volunteer makes a commitment of just 30-45 minutes a week for five consecutive weeks to teach all program lessons to a single classroom. These short visits are made on weekdays during the school day. All scheduling details, including start date of the visits, day of the week, and time of day, are established between the volunteer and the classroom teacher. This option offers flexibility for volunteers to find a day of the week and time of day that best fits their schedule.

JA-in-a-Day. Volunteers teach all five JA lessons back-to-back to their assigned class in a 4 or 5 hour commitment on just one day. Volunteers are teamed with a partner and generally volunteer from about 8:30am-1:30pm. This is real emersion!

In all JA classroom volunteer opportunities, teachers remain in the classroom to provide support and monitor student engagement.

Training & Materials

Training for a JA classroom volunteer opportunity can be done in a variety of ways. JA staff can conduct group or one-on-one training sessions, or new volunteers can take a 20 minute online training through the Junior Achievement website. Through these trainings, volunteers are provided with a kit of JA classroom materials specific to the class that they will work with. Training covers the basics of volunteering with JA in addition to how to use the kit of JA classroom materials. In addition to all materials necessary to deliver the program, each JA kit includes a lesson guidebook, which is a comprehensive, easy to use tool that gives step-by-step directions for teaching each JA lesson in the program. JA staff provides ongoing support throughout the entire volunteer process to ensure a positive experience for all.

It's FUN - try it once and you will be hooked! Students love visitors from the community in their class. Volunteering for JA allows students to see different forms of success, giving them hope for the future and building a foundation that will that will benefit them in both school and life.

For more information or to get involved contact:

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Junior Achievement
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