

JA Finance Park Visit Information

Visit Overview

Dear Teachers:

The staff of Junior Achievement wishes to thank you for recognizing the value that the *JA Finance Park* program offers your students. We appreciate that you are working so diligently to prepare them to put into action what they have learned in class. Please know how much we value your effort, time, and assistance!

Below, you will find an overview of the *JA Finance Park* operation. We hope it will give you a clear picture of daily procedures and what is expected of you and your students.

Group Assignment Form

It is important that we receive a copy of your **Group Assignment Form** at least **one week prior to the visit** to the *JA Finance Park* facility. Students will need to know their student group number before your arrival.

Student Arrival

Please plan to arrive close to the exact time scheduled with the JA office. If this is a problem for your school, please contact the *JA Finance Park* staff at least a week before your visit.

Opening Orientation

Inform your students of the importance of listening carefully during the 15-minute orientation. At this time, they will learn about safety procedures, as well as the location of restrooms, emergency exits, and other procedures. Immediately following the student orientation, students will report to their assigned business to begin the day.

Set Up and Savings

The volunteer facilitators will lead the 45-minute uninterrupted Set up and Savings meeting where the students will: watch a career presentation in their assigned business/group; receive an iPad from their volunteer assigning them an account number and associated PIN; log into the software and answer six lifestyle goals questions about their plans/hopes for their financial future; 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; calculate their NMI and their household total NMI; and decide what they will set as a monthly savings goal and then allocate that savings to three saving funds.

Research and Lunch Break

Students visit each business/budget category to unlock and research all expense categories on the students' iPads. Volunteers will remain in their business to discuss that expense category with each group of students as they come around.

Budget

Informed by their research and volunteer discussion, students build a monthly budget. They allocate 100% of their household NMI during this phase and record their budget plan in the software.

Shopping

In their assigned business, students make shopping selections for all budget categories on their iPads. They discover how close they came to budgeting accurately, based on their wants and needs. They may spend more in a category than they budgeted, but overall they may NOT spend more than their income, nor may they dip into existing savings.

Payment

Students pay for all their shopping selections. Note: Some items are paid for with a debit card (groceries, gas and maintenance for their car(s), entertainment, etc.) and other items are paid electronically by making an online payment from their banking account.

Debrief

Students receive a final report that details their life scenario and decisions. Volunteer reviews final report with students to highlight student outcomes. JA staff will lead a group debrief prior to student dismissal.