

JA Finance Park Volunteer Information

Volunteers: Why Are They Necessary?

What is experiential learning?

The main goal of an experiential learning program is to provide a concrete experience that allows an individual to transform that experience into knowledge. Before their arrival at *JA Finance Park*, students are prepared to participate in a carefully designed simulation that closely resembles real-life budget planning. Throughout the experiential learning process, students are actively engaged in posing questions, investigating, solving problems, assuming responsibility, and constructing meaning. Experiential learning may look like play when compared to traditional classrooms; however, close observation and practice soon help facilitators distinguish the difference. Good facilitators will learn to recognize spontaneous opportunities for learning, sometimes called “teachable moments.”

What are the roles and responsibilities of a *JA Finance Park* volunteer facilitator during the on-site simulation?

- **Volunteer facilitators who plan to attend *JA Finance Park* must complete an on-site volunteer training session conducted 30 (thirty) minutes prior to scheduled school arrival time.**
- Volunteer facilitators help ensure the safety and security of the students.
- Volunteer facilitators allow the students to do the work and encourage them to do their best.
- During the visit, volunteer facilitators work in one *JA Finance Park* business assisting a group of students.
- Volunteer facilitators sign-out an iPad to each student in their group and lead group discussions on the students’ personas and savings. (An account number and associated PIN is located on the back of each iPad.)
- Volunteer facilitators will stay in their assigned business during the Research phase, and initiate a group discussion with students about their assigned expense category.
- Volunteer facilitators assist students in building their budgets.
- Volunteer facilitators debrief the student experience with guided questions, sharing personal experiences and asking students questions about their future.
- Volunteer facilitators collect and sign-in iPads from each student in their business and assist students with business cleanup at the end of the day.
- Volunteer facilitators will, without a doubt, have a great day!