JA Finance Park® Volunteer Information

Become a JA Finance Park Volunteer and make a direct impact in a young person’s life.

As a volunteer with JA Finance Park, you will help students navigate the world of personal finances as they assume the role of an “adult for the day.” At JA Finance Park, students are given a unique life situation card to guide them which includes an income, marital status, even kids while working on an iPad throughout the simulation. Using this persona, students work to create a balanced monthly budget while making decisions regarding housing, transportation, insurance, savings, entertainment expenses and much more. Volunteers are needed to mentor small groups of students throughout their day at JA Finance Park. No special budgeting expertise or preparation is necessary and thorough training is provided for all volunteers!

A Typical Day in Finance Park

*Please check with your school for visit times*
Volunteer training begins one hour before students arrival.

8:00 – 9:00am Volunteer Training (*unless otherwise noted)
Volunteers participate in a guided hands-on training

9:00am School arrival

9:00 – 9:05am Welcome Orientation

9:05 – 10:00am Set-Up/Savings
Volunteers meet with a small group of students, review students’ fictitious life scenario and assist students as they calculate their Net Monthly Income and Budget Guidelines.

10:00 – 12:00pm Research/Budget (and Lunch Break)
Volunteers assist students as they collect research to help them make good budgeting choices then create a balanced monthly budget based on their life scenario and NMI.

12:00pm – 1:00pm Shopping/Payment
Volunteers assist students and provide “real world” connections as they make decisions to shop for categories within their budget, such as housing, transportation, groceries, clothing, vacations, insurance, and more. Then volunteers assist students as they “pay” their bills.

1:00pm – 1:30pm Debrief
Students will have a chance to reflect on the day’s activities as a whole group at the end of the day.

To participate as a JA Finance Park Volunteer Mentor, or have any questions please contact:

JA Finance Park Manager
206-808-5866

A World Western Washington
1610 Perimeter Rd. SW
Auburn, WA 98001
206-808-5861

jawashington.org
JA Finance Park® Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

Volunteers are an integral part of the students' Junior Achievement Finance Park experience. Volunteers will spend five and a half hours at Junior Achievement Finance Park: one hour training and four and a half hours volunteering. Volunteers help students through the budgeting process by sharing their own life experiences, and also monitor the students to ensure their continued progress throughout the day. School teachers and JA staff members will always be on hand to assist as needed.

What is JA Finance Park?
JA Finance Park is an indoor experiential learning complex where students come to gain “real world” financial education experience via an “adult for a day” simulation, while working on iPads.

Where is JA Finance Park located?
JA Finance Park is located in the JA World Facility in Auburn, Washington. The facility is located across from the street from the Outlet Collection. Plenty of parking is available for volunteers.

How long is the JA Finance Park experience?
The JA Finance Park experience lasts approximately a full day of instruction for students, or about 5 1/2 hours of volunteer time.

What is considered proper attire for volunteering at JA Finance Park?
Students will be looking up to you during your time volunteering at JA Finance Park, so dress to impress and inspire in business casual or appropriate company attire. Dress comfortably but professionally!

Is food available for volunteers?
JA offers coffee and water for our volunteers and we have beverage vending machines available. We recommend packing a lunch which you can enjoy during the day’s lunch break. We have a cooler where lunches can be stored during the day.

How many students will I be working with?
During the visit, volunteers will work at one JA Finance Park business assisting a group of six students.

Can we volunteer in JA Finance Park for a few hours or only part of the day?
We expect that volunteers commit to stay through the entire scheduled simulation. Each volunteer works with a small group of students throughout their visit to JA Finance Park. We want each student to have support throughout the simulation to ensure their successful completion.

Do I need to have experience teaching kids, or be an expert at math or finances?
All volunteers will go through a thorough one-hour training on the same day as their scheduled volunteering. All necessary information and supplies will be provided at this time. No previous experience is required.