



Welcome to Junior Achievement of South Central PA's In-class Programs

Who is Junior Achievement?

Junior Achievement is a worldwide nonprofit organization that presents important life skills through hands-on educational materials focusing on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness.

Parents and community volunteers visit the classroom for five 30-45 minute sessions in the grade level and school of their choice. Volunteers complete the program with the students in their classroom during the school day. Our goal is to inspire young people to value our free enterprise system and to improve their quality of life through their understanding of financial literacy.

As a classroom volunteer, you will discover the benefits of having a direct impact on local education and the fun of sharing your life experiences with a classroom full of students.

What exactly will I be presenting?

You will be presenting financial literacy programs created by professional curriculum development staff at JA Worldwide. JA programs begin at the elementary school level, teaching children how they can influence the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. JA programs continue through the middle school and high school grades, focusing on the key content areas of financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

What is the time commitment for a JA volunteer?

At the elementary school level, you will be presenting five 30-45 minute sessions. Volunteers also spend about 20-30 minutes familiarizing themselves with each of the session's material before presenting it to the classroom.

What time of day would I be presenting the program?

Junior Achievement classes occur during normal school hours - typically 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., though the exact hours will vary. Volunteers coordinate with the classroom teacher to determine the exact time of day and day(s) of the week that you will visit the classroom.

What if I have never worked with students before?

Do not worry! Many JA volunteers have not been in a classroom since graduating. Yet, they finish their visits eager to present another JA program again. Volunteers receive orientation prior to starting their program, have the support of a JA Program Manager throughout the school year, and the classroom teacher will always be present in the classroom to deal with any issues that may arise.

Do I need to create the session plans and activities?

No. We will provide you with all session plans, materials and activities, along with an easy-to-follow guidebook.

Do I receive any sort of training before entering the class?

Absolutely! JA provides orientation to all new volunteers. Program Managers will be available from beginning to end to assist you with support to any questions or concerns you may have.

Will I be alone in the classroom?

No. The teacher will always remain in the classroom to assist with any issues that may arise.

Do I need clearances to enter the school?

Yes. Per Pennsylvania State law, JA volunteers that go into a school on multiple occasions during a school year are required to have clearances on file with Junior Achievement of S. Central PA. You will receive information from our office on what is required and how to obtain them.