

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA Career Exploration Fair

■ Work and Career Readiness

JA Exploration Fair is an event where students learn about a range of career options across multiple career clusters. Volunteers share information about their businesses and/or jobs and students ask questions as the speakers or students rotate from station to station. Activities and implementation design will vary based on grade level.

This event is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be placed in grades K–12, in-school or after-school/out-of-school. The event may receive 3 to 5 Instructional Contact Hours (ICH) based on delivery of the optional content; volunteers are required.

OBJECTIVES

Student objectives will vary based on grade level. Generally students will:

- Observe career speakers and the tools they use.
- Identify the variety of careers people have in the community.
- Express how jobs require specific interests and skills.
- Relate the impact of personal interests and abilities on career choices.
- Investigate a variety of careers and the skills, education preparation, training, and personal qualities needed for those careers.
- Examine how school skills apply to career paths.
- Explain the importance of staying in school and graduating high school.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Structured educator and volunteer guides and student guides available for download
- Optional teacher-led sessions are available for before the fair and after the fair
- Four versions tailored toward grades K–2, grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grades 9–12

JA Career Exploration Fair

OUTLINE

Before the Career Fair (optional session, teacher-led)

Pre-JA Career Exploration Fair Session: 45 minutes

In the pre-fair session, students will assess their abilities, interests, work preferences, and values in preparation for the *JA Career Exploration Fair*.

The Day of the Fair (required session, volunteer-led)

Approximately 3-5 hours

The *JA Career Exploration Fair* schedule will vary based on grade level.

The Fair can either be set up in a gymnasium where students visit various booths, or in classrooms where students (or volunteers) rotate from classroom to classroom.

During the *JA Career Exploration Fair*, students engage with volunteers and learn more about different businesses and jobs.

After the Career Fair (optional session, teacher-led)

Post-JA Career Exploration Fair Session: 45 minutes

In the post-fair session, students will reflect on their *JA Career Exploration Fair* experiences.

Visit <https://connect.ja.org/>, JA Connect Resource Guide <https://data.ja.org/s/fRUAAA>, and <https://career.ja.org/> for additional resources.