



2026

REPORT

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Presented By



MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



To our valued Partners,

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in bringing Future Bound 2026 to life.

What began as a reimagined, student-centered experience has quickly become one of Junior Achievement's most dynamic and impactful events—connecting students from across the country and equipping them with the confidence, connections, and inspiration to shape their futures.



As Jack Harris, CEO of JA USA and 3DE at JA, shared:

"Future Bound 2026 showcased the incredible talent and ambition of our students on a national stage. The energy, innovation, and collaboration we saw throughout the event were truly inspiring—and none of it would be possible without the commitment of our partners who believe in the potential of young people."

Tim Greinert, President of JA USA, added:

"The impact of Future Bound continues to grow each year. For the students who participated, this experience is more than an event—it's a catalyst for what's next. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners whose investment makes opportunities like this possible."

We are especially grateful to our 2026 Visionary and Presenting Sponsors - Pacific Life Foundation, Chick-fil-A, CNA, Delta Air Lines, and Staples for helping bring this vision to life and for your continued investment in the students we serve.

Thank you again for being such an important part of this experience.



Jack Harris, CEO
Junior Achievement USA | 3DE



Tim Greinert, President
Junior Achievement USA

THE FUTURE BOUND EXPERIENCE



Future Bound delivered a high-impact week made possible through your support, bringing students together for meaningful connections, inspiring workshops, exclusive sponsor site visits, and the experience of national recognition. Over three immersive days of learning and competing, students built critical skills as they collaborated and competed with peers from across the country. Highlights from the week included:

Company Site Visits

Future Bound kicked off with Site Visits, where students stepped inside partner organizations to explore the world of work firsthand. These behind-the-scenes experiences revealed workplace culture, daily operations, and diverse career paths, offering a tangible glimpse into their futures.



Workshops + Expo + Student Social

Day Two of Future Bound centered on hands-on learning and entrepreneurship. After engaging in skill-building workshops, students teams showcased their products and ideas at the Entrepreneurship Expo, where judges evaluated their companies. The evening wrapped with a vibrant Kick-Off Dinner and Student Social filled with games, practice and prep, and relaxed networking.



Presentations + Simulations + Awards Gala

Day Three brought competition and celebration to the forefront. The Company of the Year (COY) and Social Innovation Challenge (SIC) teams presented and engaged in judge questions while live simulations of the JA Stock Market Challenge and JA Titan Challenges unfolded. The day's results culminated in the Future Bound Awards Gala, where students gathered to celebrate their journey and accomplishments.



INSIDE THE WORKPLACE: Exploring Careers with Local Partners



One of the most impactful elements of Future Bound 2026 was the opportunity for students to step beyond the classroom and into various site visits across Boston. These experiences offered a meaningful, behind-the-scenes look at the day-to-day work of leading organizations, bringing career pathways to life in a powerful and personal way.

Students toured workplaces, connected directly with professionals, and gained valuable insight into different industries and cultures. We are deeply grateful to our site visit hosts and partners—including **Accenture, Amazon DSPs, Boston Medical Health Systems, Brown Advisory, CNA Insurance, Delta Air Lines, JA Worldwide, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, RSM US LLP, Santander Bank, Staples, and Starbucks**—for opening their doors and helping students envision what's possible for their futures.





INNOVATION IN ACTION AT THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPO

A standout moment of the week was the Entrepreneurship Expo, a dynamic, trade show-style experience where JA Company of the Year Competition and JA Social Innovation Challenge teams brought their companies, products and ideas to life. Students pitched their ventures to judges, sharpening their storytelling, refining their marketing strategies, and presenting with confidence. Evaluated on creativity, presentation, and viability, teams showcased not just their ideas, but their growth. The Expo captured the excitement and promise of the next generation of innovators.





EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH VOLUNTEER-LED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Future Bound showcased a series of dynamic, volunteer-led workshops designed to build essential professional skills. Through hands-on challenges—from marketing and investing simulations to networking and interview preparation—students collaborated, solved real-world problems, and gained direct feedback from industry professionals. Sessions were led by partners including **Delta Air Lines, Chick-fil-A, CNA, Citizens, FedEx, Pacific Life Foundation, and Staples.**



MOMENTS OF *IMPACT*

Each moment at **Future Bound** represents more than an experience—it's a *turning point*. Here, **students discover their voice, build confidence, and see what's possible when learning comes to life**, made possible through the support of dedicated partners and champions.



Future Bound Highlights



Future Bound brought together **nearly 300** of the nation's top young entrepreneurs and innovators for a dynamic three-day experience. Through JA's four premier competitions—**Company of the Year, Social Innovation Challenge, Stock Market Challenge, and Titan Challenge**—students demonstrated their business acumen, leadership, and problem-solving skills in real-world simulations and pitch experiences.

JA Company of the Year & Social Innovation Challenge: Celebrating Student Entrepreneurship

The JA Company of the Year and Social Innovation Challenge brought together top student teams to pitch their ideas to industry judges. The result: a high-energy showcase of innovation, collaboration, and the future of entrepreneurship.



JA Stock Market Challenge & Titan Challenge: Showcasing Strategic Thinking and Innovation

The JA Stock Market Challenge and JA Titan Challenge immersed students in real-world simulations, where they took on the roles of CEOs, marketers, and investors. From analyzing market trends to managing virtual businesses, students demonstrated critical thinking, adaptability, and a strong grasp of economic principles—tackling challenges that reflect today's most pressing issues.



CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERS



Sponsor Luncheon

The Sponsor Luncheon brought together competition judges, JA partners and JA leadership to celebrate the collective impact of Future Bound 2026. Sponsors heard directly from JA Alumni Ambassadors, whose reflections underscored the power of experiential learning and mentorship. The program served as a meaningful moment to recognize the role our partners play in expanding opportunity for students nationwide.



VIP Sponsor Reception

The VIP Reception offered an opportunity for sponsors and key partners to connect more personally with students and one another. In an intimate setting, JA Alumni Ambassadors shared their stories and engaged in thoughtful conversations about their Future Bound experiences. The evening reinforced the importance of partnership in shaping students' confidence, connections, and future pathways.



JA ALUMNI AMBASSADORS



At Future Bound this year, **10 Student Ambassadors** played a key role in elevating the experience for both peers and partners. Selected for their leadership and authenticity, they **served as mentors, storytellers, and on-the-ground leaders, sharing their journeys and fostering a welcoming, relatable environment** that encouraged participation and reflection. **Their presence ensured the student voice remained central, bridging programming with real impact.** For sponsors, they offered a powerful, firsthand look at how JA programs shape future-ready leaders.



We are grateful to our ambassadors for their mentorship and service, empowering students to grow in confidence, find their voice, and envision their future!

JA ALUMNI AMBASSADORS



Pacific Life Foundation Mentoring Session

A highlight of Future Bound, the Pacific Life Foundation Mentoring Session created meaningful connections between JA Alumni Ambassadors and volunteer mentors. **Through small-group conversations, ambassadors gained valuable insights on career paths and leadership, leaving them more confident and inspired. At the same time, mentors were deeply engaged by the students' curiosity, ambition, and authenticity, making the experience a powerful, two-way exchange that was both energizing and memorable for all involved.** For partners, sessions like this bring their investment to life, offering a tangible, personal connection to the students they are helping to empower while creating a meaningful and rewarding engagement experience for their teams.



SIGNATURE AWARDS OVERVIEW



The Achievement Foundation Francomano Awards



This monetary award is presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place JA Company of the Year student teams, by the Achievement Foundation, in honor of Joseph Francomano, a former legendary Junior Achievement Executive Vice President. The Achievement Foundation, by using its financial resources, dedicates itself to the development of a better understanding of the free enterprise system by young people.

Chick-fil-A Community Impact Award



Awarded to the Social Innovation Challenge student team that has created a standout solution focused on impacting a local community need. Award winners received a certificate, crystal award, and GoPro Action Camera Bundles.

Citizens Future-Ready Workforce Award



Awarded to the company that boldly prepared its workforce, peers, and community for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. This award recognized a student team demonstrating forward-thinking leadership by expanding access to skills and opportunity, fostering inclusion and belonging, and helping build the diverse, future-ready talent pipeline required to meet the accelerating demands of the economy. Award winners received Nintendo Switches.

CNA Operational Stewardship Award



Awarded to the student team that prioritized employee well-being, managed production responsibly, and maintained operational excellence. They successfully operated all facilities within optimal capacity ranges, achieved strong Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) performance, and consistently grew their sales over the course of the competition. Award winners received 3D Printers.

Delta Air Lines Social Impact Award



Awarded to the Company of the Year student team that created a solution to address a local, national, or global social concern. Delta Social Impact Award winners received Bose Ultra Open Bluetooth Earbuds.

FedEx Global Possibilities Award



Awarded to the Company of the Year student team that best exhibits the principles of global connectivity. FedEx Global Possibilities Award winners received a certificate, crystal award and 11-inch Apple iPads.

SIGNATURE AWARDS OVERVIEW



Jim Sweeney Award



Established by the JA Staff Alumni Network (JASAN), the Jim Sweeney Award honors Jim's 32-year legacy with JA and his impact on advancing youth entrepreneurship nationwide. This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to an outstanding junior or senior who exemplifies entrepreneurial excellence.

STEM Innovation Award sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

Awarded to the Social Innovation Challenge student team that used innovative science, technology, engineering, and math applications to create positive community impact. Johnson & Johnson STEM Innovation Award winners received a certificate, crystal award, and a 3D printer.

Pacific Life Foundation Responsible Innovation Award



Awarded to the JA Titan Challenge team that best demonstrates Excellence in Responsible Innovation. The award is attributed based on overall scores in the CSR and R&D Victory Currencies. Award winners received a Nintendo Switch.

RSM Enduring Excellence Award



Awarded to a JA Stock Market Challenge team that achieved outstanding results through holding onto their investments without selling frequently or making emotional decisions based on short-term market fluctuations. Award winners received Apple airpods, a crystal trophy and certificate.

RSM Resilience Award



Given to the JA Stock Market Challenge team that experiences the greatest recovery from an early setback in the challenge, showcasing resilience and smart adjustments to their strategy. Award winners received Apple airpods, a crystal trophy, and certificate.

Staples Sustainable Investing Award

Awarded to the Stock Market Challenge student team that made the highest gains through their investments in environmentally sustainable businesses/stocks. Award winners received 11-inch Apple iPads.

COMPETITION



1st Place Winners
EVO (Elkins Very Own)
JA of Southeast Texas



2nd Place Winners
Joe Flynn Photography
JA North



3rd Place Winners
Talk of the Town
JA of Southeast Texas

COMPETITION



***FedEx Global
Possibilities Award***
Sparkbyte

JA of North Central Ohio



***Delta Air Lines Social
Impact Award***
Heavy Hugs

JA of North Central Ohio



***Citizens Future-Ready
Workforce Award***
Sparkbyte

JA of North Central Ohio

COMPETITION



***Jim Sweeny Award for
Entrepreneurial Excellence***
Lana Nguyen of EVO (Elkins Very Own)
JA of Southeast Texas



Student Choice Award Winner
Heavy Hugs
JA of North Central Ohio



1st Place Winners
ColorFresh
JA of New York



2nd Place Winners
Forget-Me-Not
JA of the Space Coast



3rd Place Winners
All Kids Swim
JA of San Diego County



Student Choice Award Winner
All Kids Swim
JA of San Diego County



Chick-fil-A Community
Impact Award
Color Fresh
JA of New York



STEM Innovation Award sponsored
by Johnson & Johnson
NextUse
JA of Southeast Texas

JA Junior Achievement™ STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE



1st Place Winners
The Eagles of Wall Street
JA of Greater Miami



2nd Place Winners
Men in Black
JA of OKI Partners



3rd Place Winners
Roaring Kitty
JA of the Space Coast

JA Junior Achievement™ STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE



Staples Stock Market Challenge Sustainability Award

A.5

JA of Greater Fairfield County



RSM Enduring Excellence Award Huskies of Wall Street

JA of the Desert Southwest



RSM Resilience Award Sophrosyne Advisors

JA of the Space Coast



JA TITAN[®]

CHALLENGE



1st Place Winners

Kaboom

JA of Washington



2nd Place Winners

Caribou1

JA of Maine



3rd Place Winners

PVHS2

JA of the Heartland



JA TITAN[®]

CHALLENGE



***Pacific Life Foundation
Responsible Innovation Award
PVHS1
JA of the Heartland***



***CNA Operational
Stewardship Award
EastLiver Pool 2
JA of East Ohio***



WITH GRATITUDE

On behalf of Junior Achievement USA's leadership and staff, we extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors and partners for your continued support of Future Bound. Your partnership played a vital role in making this experience possible and in empowering the next generation of leaders. Together, we are helping students build the confidence, skills, and vision they need to reach their full potential.

To explore full competition results, visit [Future Bound Results](#). To view event photos from the week, visit [Future Bound photos](#).



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS

Visionary Sponsor



Presenting Sponsors



We also extend our appreciation to **Emerson** for their support of Future Bound 2026. Their partnership helped create meaningful learning and leadership experiences for students.

