

JA Career Speakers Series

Program Overview | Initial Release

In *JA Career Speakers Series*, a volunteer guest speaker visits the classroom and shares information about his or her career, work, and education experience. The speaker may bring props, samples of his or her work, or other visuals to help engage students. Activities and implementation design will vary based on grade level.

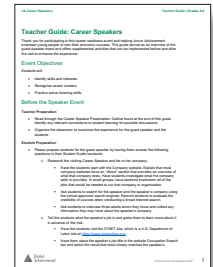
Program Highlights

- Structured guides and student handouts provided to all volunteers and educators
- Includes an optional pre-speaker session (teacher-led) and an optional post-speaker session (teacher-led)
- Four versions tailored toward grades K–2, grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grades 9–12

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 1 to 3 Instructional Contact Hours (ICH) per volunteer guest speaker.

The *JA Career Speaker Series* activities will vary based on grade level.

Below is a sample outline for middle school.



Session	Overview	Objectives/Goals	Activities
Before the Event	Students research the visiting career speaker and his or her company, and prepare questions for the speaker event.	<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify skills and interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher prepares students for guest speaker and reviews materials. • Students research jobs and background related to guest speaker's profession. • Optional: Use interactive supplement with students so they can exploring careers for themselves, as individuals.
During the Event	Students learn about the guest speaker's job experiences and stories, ask questions, and take notes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice active listening skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer speaker shares his or her job experiences and stories to offer insight and guidance for career education. • Teacher remains in the classroom during the entire visit to maintain classroom discipline and help foster student engagement. • Students engage with the volunteer and take notes in their Student Guides.

Session	Overview	Objectives/Goals	Activities
After the Event	Students reflect on what they learned during their preparation and the speaker event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize career clusters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students report one or two of the most significant things they each learned from the preparation and speaker event. Students write a thank you note to the speaker. Students work in pairs to create a Career Cluster Scavenger Hunt. Optional: Use online supplements, Battle of the Bands, and JA Assembling Your Career if these were not explored previously.

Concepts: Business, Career clusters, Career speaker, Careers, Choices, Community, Earn, Education, Interests, Knowledge, Job, Pay, Skills, Talent, Work activities

Skills: Active listening, Decision making, Formulating questions, Making observations, Online research, Reasoning, Social skills, Verbal and written communication

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