

Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park

Volunteer Overview

What is Capital One/ Junior Achievement Finance Park?

For the past several weeks, JANJ students have been studying financial institutions, taxes, budgeting, and investing. Their teachers have been educating them, in the classroom, using the JA Finance Park[®] curriculum. Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park gives students a hands-on opportunity to put this classroom learning into action. The volunteer's role as a mentor, coach and role model is extremely important to the success of our students, both inside and outside the classroom. Over the course of 18 class sessions, students investigate critical topics related to budgeting and wise consumerism. These learning objectives prepare students for a capstone experience in which they spend a day at Capital One/ Junior Achievement Finance Park, located at Verizon New Jersey State Headquarters **540 Broad Street, Newark, NJ**, and assume a simulated life under the guidance of trained volunteers.

How is this different from a JA Day?

Rarely does a Junior Achievement volunteer have the opportunity to work with students as they apply what they have learned to a new and realistic situation. Teaching becomes coaching as students are continually faced with putting their knowledge into play. They can "talk the talk" but need some guidance on "walking the walk" and relish the opportunity to discuss their simulated financial situations with people in the know. This volunteer role is quite different from that in a normal classroom visit, yet demands no more volunteer time than a JA Day.

What is my role as a volunteer?

As a Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park volunteer role model, you will have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to make a difference in the lives of New Jersey's students. You will have a group of 6 or less students and will assist them with their monthly budgets. You will also have a phenomenal opportunity to share your professional experiences with well deserving students who recognize the importance of being financially literate. As they make decisions and work through calculations, your students will feel supported knowing that you are there to coach and advise them. You do not have to be a math whiz and there will be other volunteers to support you. Your primary goal to provide support to your group of students.

When is training?

There are multiple training times available located on site at Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park prior to the date you are scheduled to volunteer. There is also training available via conference call. Please schedule your training with Stacy Nielsen (contact information below).

What would my day be like?

Prior to the students' arrival on the day of their Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park visit, a JA staff member will conduct a brief overview of the day and you will have a chance to talk with other volunteers. Through over the course of the day JA staff and school educators will be on site at all times to ensure you are supported throughout the course of your volunteer experience.

After students arrive at the Park, they are separated into groups of six and assigned to a volunteer-led business (home base). When students have been seated, a JA staff member will provide them with a preview of their day. Following this preview, students will begin The Truth Revealed by receiving a Student Portfolio, which contains four important worksheets, a student Debit Card and a Life Situation Sticker explaining their adult role for the day. This Life Situation Sticker details their gross annual salary, taxes and family situation. Students will use this information as they convert their gross annual salary to a net monthly income (NMI) and begin the budget process. Throughout the remainder of the day, students will use their created family budget as they work through The Big Search, The Budget Puzzle and The Final Commitment. Each of these time periods will be discussed in detail during the volunteer training. Departure for volunteers is no later than 2:00pm.

Sample Agenda

8:15 AM	Volunteer Briefing	11:15 AM	Lunch (provided for volunteers)
9:15 AM	Student Arrival	11:45 AM	The Budget Puzzle
9:45 AM	The Truth Revealed	12:45 PM	The Final Commitment
10:30 AM	The Big Search	1:30 PM	Clean Up/Closing Announcements