

JA JobSpark 2025 FAQ – Volunteers

1. What is JA JobSpark?

- a. JA JobSpark is multi-day hands-on career expo for Indianapolis 8th graders. JA JobSpark is meant to spark an interest in students and get them excited for their future. Students will have quality interactions with skilled and professional workers who work directly in these jobs and will have an opportunity to utilize equipment and learn skills that are used within 8 industries:
 - i. Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering & Logistics
 - ii. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 - iii. Architecture, Engineering & Construction
 - iv. Business & Finance
 - v. Government, Law & Public Service
 - vi. Health & Life Sciences
 - vii. Hospitality & Tourism
 - viii. Technology

2. When is JA JobSpark?

- a. JA JobSpark will take place on September 23-25th, 2025, with a set-up day on September 22nd. Volunteers providing a hands-on activity will be provided with a set-up day schedule closer to the event. Event days will be between the hours of 9am-1:30pm. Students will arrive throughout the day on a staggered entry schedule.

3. Where is a JA JobSpark?

- a. JA JobSpark will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds: 1202 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.
- b. We are in two NEW buildings this year: The Coliseum and the West Pavilion

4. Why were these new buildings chosen for the event?

- a. This decision was made through a careful review of relevant factors, including input from key stakeholders, safety and security experts, survey feedback analysis, and a thorough evaluation of what will provide the safest and best overall experiences for attendees at the JA JobSpark Career Expo.
- b. These buildings also offer the following:
 - i. The new layout features a designated one-way flow system. Students will enter the event (staggered entry) in the Coliseum and exit out of the West Pavilion, reducing any unnecessary crowding or backtracking.
 - ii. Enough space to accommodate the number of participating students and business partners
 - iii. Event space is all in two buildings and on the same level
 - iv. The new buildings are completely stair-free, ensuring a seamless and comfortable experience for all students. Students will not have to navigate stairs to get to the other building.

- v. We've set up a specific area for students to gather for exiting once they have finished going through the West Pavilion. This ensures a safe and organized way for students to exit without disrupting the ongoing event activities.

5. What additional safety and security measures are in place for JA JobSpark?

- a. The safety and well-being of all participants is our top priority. We've conducted thorough research and are partnered with the Indiana State Police and Indiana State Fairgrounds to ensure a safe environment, including but not limited to:
 - i. Staggered entry/exit for all schools; structured pathways through buildings
 - ii. Metal detectors at entrance for all participants
 - iii. A limited number of students in each zone at a time
 - iv. A 1:15 school representative to student ratio
 - v. Presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) from each school
- b. We will continue to monitor and adjust our safety plans as needed. If you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us directly.

6. Who can participate?

- a. If your business/organization would like to participate by providing a hands-on experience for students and/or as a volunteer during event days, please contact the JA JobSpark team for more information.
- b. Junior Achievement collaborates directly with schools to facilitate student participation. If you are aware of a school interested in getting involved, please reach out to the JA JobSpark team for further information.

7. How much does it cost for businesses to participate?

- a. We ask for a minimum participation fee of \$1,000 in order to keep JA JobSpark zero cost for all students. This fee goes toward student materials, as well as event costs (electricity, wifi, A/V, tables, chairs, etc). Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

8. How will students prepare to attend JA JobSpark?

- a. Students will participate in three engaging 45 minute JA sessions delivered by their classroom teacher prior to the Career Expo event. All participating teachers will receive online training and all materials needed. As part of the curriculum, students will take a career interest assessment and utilize their results to guide the industry clusters they will visit while at the event. Students will also be provided clear behavioral expectations and consequences as part of their curriculum and will be required to sign a behavioral policy in.
- b. After students attend JA JobSpark, teachers will deliver an additional 45 minute session to recap and follow up from the event. be required to sign a behavioral policy in preparation for the event.

9. Who is planning this event?

- a. A coalition of educators, organizations and industry leaders working in partnership on the Career Success Initiative, led by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana.

10. What can students expect to get out of attending JA JobSpark?

- a. JA JobSpark is meant to "spark" an interest in students. Through participation on JA JobSpark, students will learn about themselves – their skills, interests and values for

workplace readiness and will learn about industries and occupations in demand. Students will have a better understanding of the courses to take in high school and post-secondary and have a clear career pathway identified. Students will be prepared to select post-secondary options.

11. How does JobSpark live on past the event?

- a. Please visit www.jajobspark.org for updated industry related information. Students will continue to engage with the businesses they met at JobSpark. Please contact Junior Achievement about our K-12 in-school programs, summer camp, JA BizTown, JA CareerIgnite, and more.

For more information, please do not hesitate to reach out our team:

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