

JA DISCOVERY CENTER AT GWINNETT

Developed to educate. Designed to inspire. Imagine a generation where young people know how to budget, save and invest; a generation armed with the confidence and understanding to take control of their financial futures, their careers and achieve their dreams. With your support, this is all possible as we provide Gwinnett County middle school students with a 360-degree educational experience that begins in the classroom and culminates with a one day visit to JA BizTown or JA Finance Park.



JA BizTown will be organized around a central gathering area; the design is based on the seat of Gwinnett. The simulation creates an opportunity where students are able to interact within a simulated economy and take on the role of employee, tax payer, and consumer. During the visit to JA BizTown students receive job assignments and work in teams at their assigned business. By the end of the simulation each student completes a day's work, develops a personal budget, and makes purchasing decisions.

The **JA Finance Park** design concept is a "City of Tomorrow," inspired by modern day Gwinnett and incorporating modern architectural elements of glass, steel, and concrete. The simulation allows students to experience their personal financial futures first-hand. Upon entering, students receive a 'life situation' with job, income, education, and family scenarios. Based on their adult persona, students visit businesses to gather details to make wise financial decisions, such as managing a household budget.

91%

Increasing Financial Literacy

91% of JA BizTown students understand basic financial concepts such as profits and expenses and how they relate.*

94%

Lifetime Experience

94% of students see a strong connection between choices they made in the simulation and real-life choices they will face.*

94%

Primed for Future Success

94% of students report that they now see why school and education are important to the lifestyle they want to live.*

GET ENGAGED AS A VOLUNTEER

Parents, community members, and business partners can all support the success of the JA Discovery Center at Gwinnett by **volunteering!** Whether alone or as a small group, you can help make an impact on the community and Gwinnett middle school students by volunteering with the **JA Day Ramp-up Program** (at a local school prior to the Discovery Center launch) or the **JA Discovery Center at Gwinnett** simulations (opening in Fall 2015). Both opportunities enhance financial literacy and build career readiness skills for the students!

JA DAY RAMP-UP PROGRAM

To prepare students for the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park experience next school year, we are conducting JA Days in middle schools this academic year (January - May). A JA Day is a half-day event where volunteers, supported by teachers, come into the classroom to discuss economic concepts through fun and engaging lessons using JA-provided materials.



The volunteer **time commitment** is as follows:

- **Orientation & Training Session:** 1-hour training session where JA goes over your materials, provides you with tips, and answers any questions you may have.
- **At-Home Preparation:** Approximately 1-hour for you to get reacquainted with the materials.
- **In-Class Volunteering:** 3.5-hour session for you to lead the students through the lessons, share your personal experiences, and have fun!

From all educational or professional backgrounds, volunteers can guide students through interactive activities that keep students engaged and working in groups. If you are interested in volunteering for a JA Day this winter/spring, please email **Hannah Feldman** at hfeldman@georgia.ja.org or **678.591.2922**.

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Opening in Fall 2015, the JA Discovery Center at Gwinnett will need volunteers to help make the students' visit to JA BizTown or JA Finance Park a real success! On the day of the event, volunteers will receive an hour training with all information they need to work with the students. The onsite training takes place in the morning before students arrive and the volunteer day concludes at 2:45pm.



Whether by yourself or with a small group, come volunteer to guide students through either the JA BizTown or JA Finance Park simulations! If you are interested in volunteering next school year, please email VolunteerGwinnett@georgia.ja.org.