

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

JA Inspire[®] (Middle School)

■ Work and Career Readiness

JA Inspire is much more than a career fair. It brings together the business community and local schools and is designed to help launch middle school students into their future—high school, postsecondary education, and careers beyond. The curriculum can be completed by students independently at home, or in a classroom with or without teacher involvement. The *JA Inspire* event, which follows the curriculum, can be in-person, virtual, or both.

The learning experience consists of three segments: (1) pre-event career-oriented sessions; (2) the *JA Inspire* event; and (3) a post-event reflection. The *JA Inspire* event is aligned with local industry and career opportunities, as well as JA Area and local school district preferences.

JA Inspire in-person events are multi-hour experiences where students participate in hands-on activities, often using equipment or tools used on a job. VFairs, the online interactive platform used to host *JA Inspire* virtual events, allows students to attend webinars and presentations, explore company exhibits, and interact with career speakers. Both event types provide students a powerful way to learn about real-world career opportunities and their local economy.

This learning experience is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and is designed for grades 6–8. The default instructional contact hours for this learning experience is 4 hours, with a variable ICH of 5–6 hours.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Is a fully online, self-guided curriculum with a teacher-led option that allows students to explore their own values, skills, and interests, plus career clusters and the specific jobs that align with them.
- Offers optional wraparound classroom introductions and talking points for each session.
- Requires a digital device for each participating student.
- Event (virtual, in-person, or both) provides a powerful way to learn about real-world careers.
- Provides many extension activities via JA Connect (connect.ja.org/work-career-readiness)