

Virtual Volunteer Presenter's Guide

In *JA Our Nation*, fifth-grade students explore the nation's free market system and how it serves as an economic engine for businesses and careers. They learn about the need for entrepreneurial and innovative thinking to meet the requirements of high-growth, high-demand careers and global businesses.

To assist you in virtually presenting to students—whether via a short, recorded video or beaming in live to an in-person or remote classroom—we have prepared the following outline to help you gather your thoughts and connect with students. If you create a recorded video, you will skip the Break the Ice portion of the outline and reduce the time spent on other sections.

Presentation Outline

1. **Introduce yourself and your company.** Describe your position and your basic job duties. *(3 minutes for remote live beam-in/30 seconds for recorded video)*
2. **Break the ice.** Capture students' interest in your topic and its connection to entrepreneurship, career choices, and the need for soft skills. *(5 minutes for remote live beam-in/skip for recorded video)*
 - Ask students to share some of the ways they currently earn money, or ask if any of their families own their own business, or if they themselves own a business (lawn cutting, dog care, etc.).
 - Ask students if they have an idea about a career they would like to pursue as an adult.
 - Tell students a kid-friendly job joke. For example, "What do you call an underwater spy?" James Pond. Or, "Why did the policeman go to the baseball game?" He heard someone had stolen a base.
3. **Share stories** that highlight you, your expertise, and your experiences. *(5 minutes for remote live beam-in/3 minutes for recorded video)*
 - Select a topic from the list to illustrate your experiences through stories to increase students' engagement in the material. Consult your teacher or JA Area representative to find out if there is a particular session(s) or topic(s) they would like you to address.
 - Try to make your stories as concrete and relatable as possible, using vivid detail and captivating language, asking questions as appropriate, and making sure your audience is following along.
 - **Session One: Free to Choose Your Work or Business.** Are you an entrepreneur? Tell students about how you started your business, or tell them about someone you know who started a business. Or, if you've ever contributed to a crowdfunding campaign, that would make a good story too.
 - **Session Two: Innovation Nation.** Have you ever invented something or come up with a new idea, system, or procedure that helped you be more efficient at work?
 - **Session Three: Career Clusters.** Describe your career path and how you arrived at your present position. How did you initially go about making choices for your career?

Remote Live

For volunteers beaming in live to connect with students, the minimum requirement is one, 15-minute session. Your JA Area representative can provide additional details.

Recorded Video

JA recommends that each recorded video be 3–5 minutes maximum in length. Your JA Area representative can provide additional filming guidelines and recommendations.

- **Session Four: Get and Keep the Job.** Talk about the specific skills you possess that are important in your career. How does the work you do inspire or fulfill you or make you feel that you are contributing to your community?
- **Session Five: Global Connections.** Have you traveled internationally? Tell students about products from our country that you were surprised to find abroad.
- **Business Organization.** Tell students how your business is organized (corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship), and describe the advantages and disadvantages of that model for you.

4. Review and wrap up. *(5 minutes for remote live beam-in/30 seconds for recorded video)*

- Ask students to share something that they have learned about innovation or careers. Does it relate to your story today?
- Ask students one word, thought, or phrase they can remember to share with their friends and family about what they learned.
- Discuss specific steps students can take toward their own career.
- Review your talk/story in three points.

If you have any questions about your time as a remote volunteer or about the JA program material, please contact your local JA office, or visit the website at <https://jausa.ja.org/programs/ja-our-nation>.

To help improve the JA experience, we welcome your feedback via this short survey at https://juniorachievementusa.formstack.com/forms/feedback_form_location_ck.