

Monthly News & Updates

July 2026

Financial Literacy Fun

Looking for a way to keep financial learning engaging this summer? Check out the “Budgeting” module on JA Connect! Gather your family and try the Budgeting Challenge together. This interactive online activity lets students (and parents!) create a simple budget, make choices about spending and saving, and discover how to balance wants and needs.

Visit JA Connect and select the Manage My Money topic to get started—no special materials required. It’s a fun, hands-on way to spark conversations about money management while building skills that last a lifetime. Give it a try and see who in your family can balance their budget best!

[JA Connect](#)

Celebrating Achievements: Erica Weston



Congratulations to Erica Weston on two outstanding honors from Junior Achievement USA. Erica has been selected to serve on a national working group focused on new business model volunteer training, and will help facilitate discussions and share best practices at the upcoming K–8 Forum.

This recognition highlights her innovative approach to volunteer engagement, leadership on the K–8 Committee, and commitment to delivering high-quality learning experiences for students. In addition, Erica was named a JA Rising Leader and invited to

Back-to-school Readiness Tips

As the summer draws to a close, students and parents alike start to feel the excitement—and sometimes anxiety—of a new academic year. Junior Achievement (JA) is here to help families make a confident transition back to school with these practical tips:

1. Set Clear Goals:

Sit down as a family to discuss what each student hopes to achieve this year. Whether it’s improving grades, joining a club, or learning new skills, setting goals early helps keep students motivated and focused.

2. Get Organized:

Create a family calendar to keep track of important dates, such as school events, project deadlines, and JA activities. Organizing school supplies and designating a homework space can also make a big difference.

3. Revisit Routines:

Ease back into school-year routines by adjusting bedtimes and morning schedules a week before classes begin. Practicing these habits early can help students feel more prepared and less stressed.

4. Emphasize Financial Literacy:

Take advantage of JA's resources to teach students about budgeting, saving, and making smart spending choices. Even simple activities like planning a weekly lunch budget or brainstorming ways to earn allowance can build lifelong money skills.

5. Stay Positive and Communicate:

Encourage open conversations about hopes, concerns, and expectations for the year. Remind students that it's normal to feel nervous and that support is always available—from family, teachers, and JA mentors.

By focusing on organization, goal-setting, and financial literacy, JA families can start the school year strong and confident. Here's to a successful and rewarding year ahead!

participate in the prestigious, invitation-only Hemak Leadership Training Program. Her selection is a testament to her dedication, creativity, and leadership within JA Arkansas and the broader JA network. We are incredibly proud of Erica and grateful for her continued contributions to our team.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities



Event: Swing Fore JA

September 18, 2026 in Rogers, AR

Don't miss your chance to be part of a great cause and a day of fun at Swing Fore JA! Gather your friends, colleagues, or clients and join us for an exciting golf tournament that supports Junior Achievement programs across Arkansas. Your participation helps empower local students with essential skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. Sign up today to secure your spot, enjoy some friendly competition, and make a lasting impact in our community!

[**Register Here**](#)

The Power of Volunteering with JA

Junior Achievement thrives because of dedicated volunteers who bring real-world experience and inspiration into classrooms. By volunteering with JA, you help empower the next generation with critical life skills like financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness.

Volunteering is flexible and rewarding—whether you lead a one-time lesson or mentor students throughout a semester. JA provides all the training and materials you'll need, so you can focus on connecting with students.

Join our community of volunteers and make a tangible difference in young lives. Your time and knowledge can spark curiosity, build confidence, and open new opportunities for students across Arkansas.

[Get Started](#)



DISCOVER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES WITH JA PROGRAMS

Looking for ways to inspire and empower the next generation? JA offers a variety of programs designed to prepare students for future success. Whether you're a student eager to explore career pathways, an educator seeking valuable resources, or a professional wanting to make a difference, there's a JA program for you.



JA Inspire
Virtual Career Fair (September – May Availability): Dive into a dynamic virtual experience where students connect with local employers, learn about diverse career options, and gain insights into the skills needed for tomorrow's workforce.



JAID
Junior Achievement Innovation Day is a hands-on, interactive event that challenges students to develop innovative solutions to real-world business problems, fostering creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking.



Future Ready Leaders
High school students step into leadership roles, delivering JA lessons to younger students and developing essential communication, mentoring, and leadership skills.



Career Speaker
JA Career Speaker connects students with professionals from diverse industries who share real-world insights and career journeys. This engaging program broadens perspectives and inspires students to explore future career possibilities.

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