



My Work Priorities Training

What is JA Trades?

- Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis offers a program called JA Trades, designed to introduce middle and high school students to careers in the trades. This hands-on program emphasizes the value of STEM skills and provides real-world experiences across a variety of trade professions.
- Students rotate through different stations to gain practical insight into careers such as welders, electricians, carpenters, and more.
- Volunteers play a vital role in the success of this program. We appreciate your support and hope your experience is both rewarding and memorable.

Why teach Trades?

- High Demand: Skilled workers are needed more than ever as many retire.
- Career Path: Trades offer a solid, well-paying alternative to college.
- Hands-On Learning: Ideal for students who prefer practical, real-world skills.
- Strong Earnings: Many trade jobs offer great pay and benefits.
- Essential Roles: Trades are critical to keeping our communities running.



Volunteer Role

- Students will rotate through several trade stations to gain first-hand experience with different skilled careers. Your role is to lead a simulation that teaches students how BIM technology operates. You'll introduce the activity, guide them through the controls, and help them understand how this equipment is used in Trades.



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What is My Work Priorities?

In this session, students will categorize the priorities they want to look for in deciding their future careers.

This session tasks the students with thinking about their career path and what contributes to their quality of life.



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Student Activity

- Students will be given category cards and asked to choose between 2 priorities.
- These choices will help guide them as they think about the types of jobs that will best fulfill their priority list.
- This activity offers lots of opportunities for discussion amongst the students and with you the volunteer.



Simulation Activity Instructions



JA Trades *My Work Priorities* Volunteer Guide

Discussion Points:

Your generation is projected to work for a far greater number of companies and in a high number of different jobs over the course of your work lives than the generations before you. Discuss.

With that kind of predicted job turnover, why is it essential for you to evaluate what's most important to you in your work environment? Discuss.

Once you have established those priorities, use them as an anchor for planning what kind of job you want and what education and training are needed.

Why is it important to think about the quality of life you want to have? Accept all answers. (It is important so that you can plan with those priorities in mind.) The JA Volunteer may share their work priorities with the students.

You will now make choices about what you want your work future to look like. You will then prioritize those choices so you can focus on your career paths.

Activity Setup Part 1:

1. Distribute the Personal Priority Cards (in baggies) to each student along with a dry erase marker and eraser or wipe.
2. Ask the students to place each card from the baggie in front of them on the table.
3. Ask the students to read the "I would rather" pairs on each card and circle the choice that best describes their work priority in each pair.
4. Repeat the process with the other cards.
5. Time permitting, ask volunteers to share their choices and why.

Activity Setup Part 2:

1. Distribute the Priority Triangle to each student.
2. Ask the students to turn the triangle to Side One and sort each card into one of the two columns on the triangle based on whether the item circled on each card is a high priority to them in their future work life or a lower priority.
3. Next, ask the students to move the two piles of cards off the triangle, carefully keeping

- You will receive a handout with detailed instructions upon your arrival to JA Trades. JA staff will check in to ensure you are comfortable with the task at hand and answer any questions you may have.



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THANK YOU!

**We look forward
to seeing you at
JA Trades!**

Enjoy the Day!



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