



The Team Challenge 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.

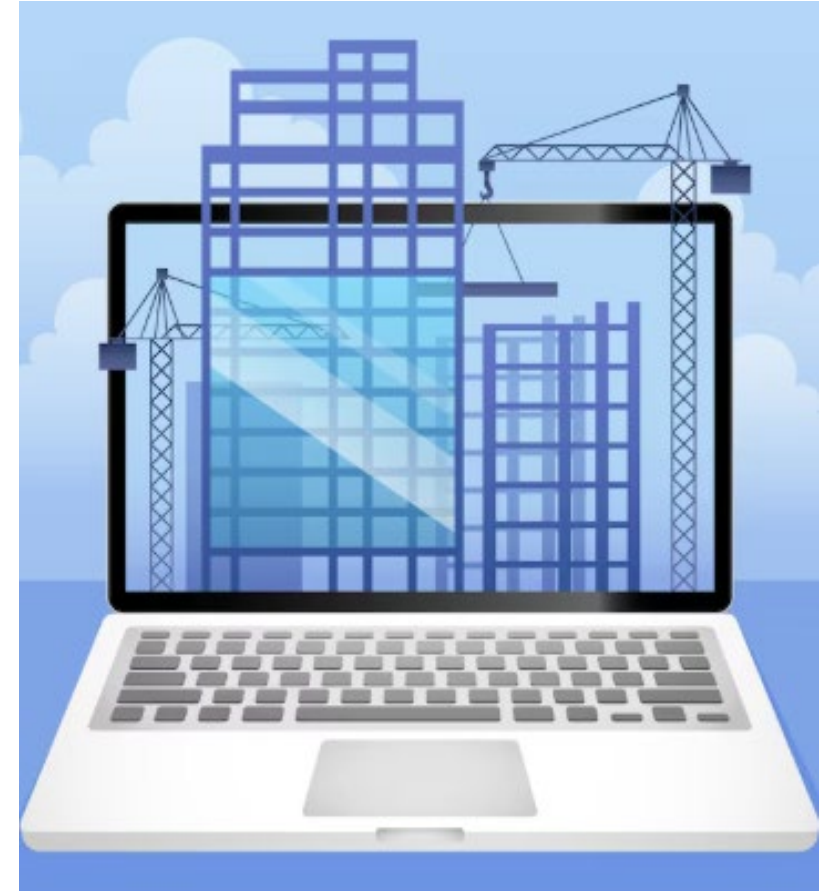
Why teach Trades?

- 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 The Team Challenge?

In this session, students will learn the value of team building – a skill essential in most jobs, including trades.

Most jobs require working with others and companies are looking to hire employees who understand and contribute to high-performance teams.

If individuals work together, they can avoid mistakes, save money and ensure projects are done quickly and efficiently.



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A few of the Trades that use Teams:



- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Construction
- Steelwork
- Builders & Architects
- Automotive Repair

Student Activity

- Students work in teams of 3, 4 or 5 to build structures using only supplied materials
- Student Structures Must Be:
 - Freestanding
 - Tall
 - Sturdy
 - Built within the timeframe provided
 - Creative
- Structures are judged based on criteria met/exceeded



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Simulation Activity Instructions



JA Trades *The Team Challenge* Volunteer Guide

Ask students if businesses can function with only one person. Discuss.

Explain that when we think of teamwork and team players, we generally think of people working together on a football field, basketball court, or in some other sport. However, teamwork and being a team player are key skills required in nearly all workplaces.

Most jobs require working with others, and companies are looking to hire employees who understand and contribute to high-performance teams.

Tell students that they will conduct a team-building exercise called *The Team Challenge*. They will discover the value of teamwork and rate the performance of their team. This is the kind of teamwork employers want to see in the workplace.

Before the Build:

- Organize students into teams of three, four, or five.
- Give each team the team-building kit containing 25 index cards, 25 paper clips, and a *Team Challenge* poster.
- Review the *GRPI High-Performance Team Criteria* with the students.
- Ask the teams to read the instructions on the poster. Answer any questions.
- Ask students to plan how their team will win the challenge.
- Make sure each team has a flat surface to build its structure.
- Build the structure.

After the Build:

- Announce "Time's Up" when 5 minutes are left in the session.
- Ask each team to rate their team using the *GRPI High-Performance Team Criteria* by circling the rating on the poster that matches their performance during the competition.
- If time allows, ask each team to score their structure as a group using the *Team Challenge Scoring Guide* to ensure all requirements are met.
- Ask teams to protect their structure through the judging process.
- If time allows, score each team's structure using the Scoring Guide and record the score on each team's poster, the teams will rate their teamwork based on GRPI criteria and
- Announce the winner.

Discuss:

Ask students to reflect on their team's performance.

- Was their team a high-performance team, based on the GRPI criteria? Or did their

- 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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