



Skid Steer Loader 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 to operate a skid steer loader. You'll introduce the activity, guide them through the controls, and help them understand how this equipment is used on real job sites.



What is a Skid Steer Loader?

It's a mobile, four-wheel drive machinery that moves materials from one place to another usually using a bucket or forks in a variety of tasks.



Industries that use Skid Steer Loaders



- Landscaping
- Construction
- Farming
- Roadwork
- Forestry
- Demolition
- Warehousing



Certification Information

- The Skid Steer simulator is used to certify adults to operate heavy equipment.
 - **Certification = 140 + hours** on the simulator.
 - Hands-On Test: Demonstrates your ability to operate the skid steer correctly.
 - Written Test: Covers safety rules, best practices, and machine knowledge.

Student Activities

Students will take turns practicing FOUR key tasks:

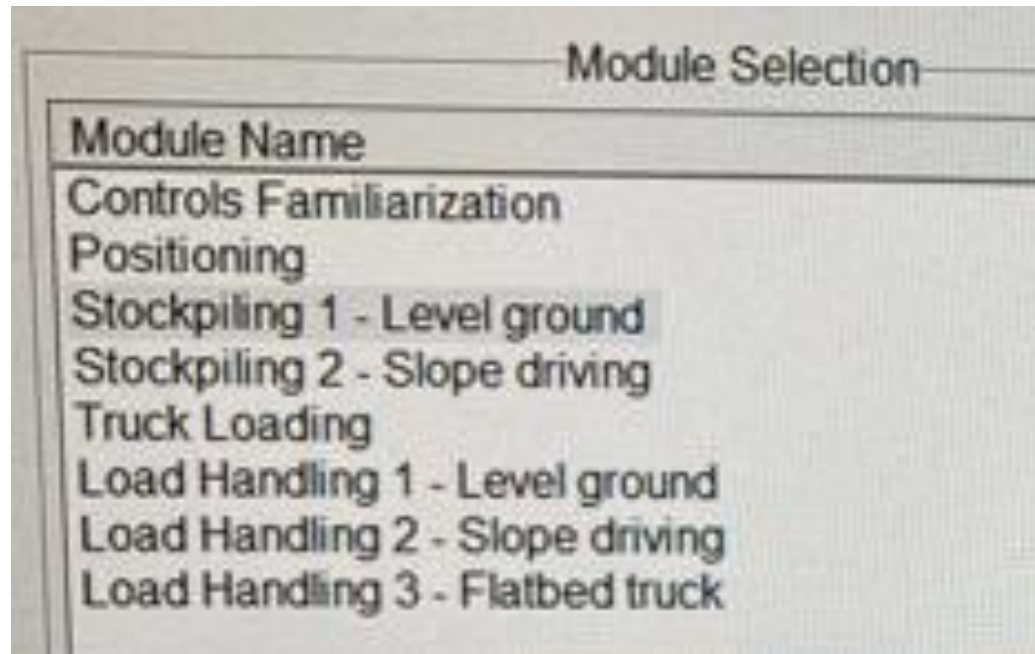
- Control Familiarization
- Positioning (Obstacle Course)
- Stockpiling 1: Using the bucket to move rocks
- Load Handling 1: Using the fork to move pallets

These hands-on simulations give students a feel for real equipment operation and basic material handling techniques.

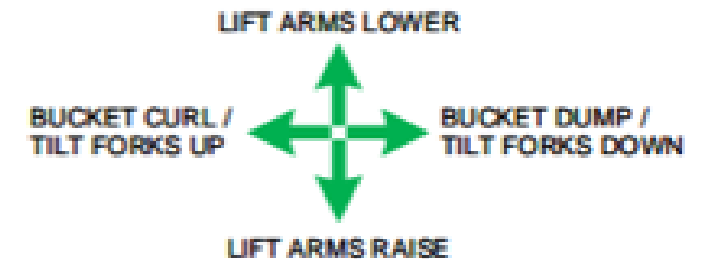
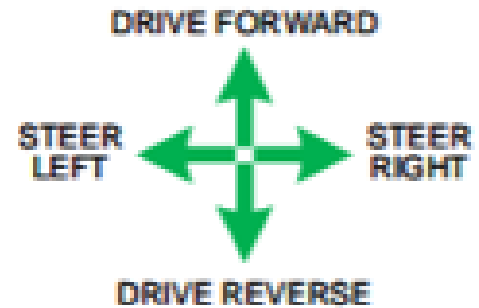


Skid Steer Loader Simulation

Module Selection



Learning Controls





What students should expect?

- Operating heavy machinery is hard—even adults take time to learn. Students are getting a hands-on introduction to operating a skid steer loader!
- They are trying something most people never get to do, so they can just take time and have fun.

Simulation Activity Instructions

3.23.2026



Skid Steer Loader Volunteer Guide

Skid Steer Loader introduces students to the importance and value of trades careers within their communities. Your role is to lead the group in a simulation that teaches students how a Skid Steer Loader operates and the steps involved in using it safely and effectively on a job site. You will introduce the activity, demonstrate each stage of the machine's operation, and help them understand how these skills connect to careers in the construction and equipment trades.

Before the session begins, please review:

- Skid Steer Loader Volunteer Guide
- Skid Steer Loader Training PowerPoint
- Practice using joysticks

To turn on the simulators, log in to each computer (if not already)

- Username: Trades
- Password: [simlog](#) (all lowercase)
- Check that the sound is turned on to the correct level
- Double-click: [Simlog](#) Skid Steer Loader
- Click: Proceed without login
- Select the category "Positioning" and launch the module

Instructions to Read Aloud (Bolded Sections)

Welcome to Skid Steer Loader! Today you are going to learn how a Skid Steer Loader works and what makes it such an important machine on a job site. By the end, you will be able to explain the basic steps of operating it safely and understand how different skilled tradespeople use this equipment to get work done.

Skid Steer Loaders work in many places. Can you think of some examples? (landscaping, construction, farming, roadwork, forestry, demolition, and warehousing)

What would our community look like if there were no Skid Steer Loaders? (A lot of construction and landscaping work would take much longer and would have to be done by hand or with less efficient equipment)

- 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.



THANK YOU!

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

Enjoy the Day!



Member of
JA Worldwide