



# Carpentry 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.
- You will lead hands-on activities designed to show students what it's like to be a carpenter.
- You'll explain each activity, guide them through it, and highlight how the skills they learn are used in trades.



# What is a Carpenter?



**A carpenter is a skilled trades worker who**

- **Builds structures using wood and other materials.**
- **Turns plans and drawings into real buildings like the walls, floors, and roofs in homes, schools, stores, and theaters.**
- **Is essential because other trades, like electricians and plumbers, rely on the structure carpenters build first.**

# Industries that use Carpenters



**Residential Carpenter** – builds houses and apartments  
**Commercial Carpenter** – works on schools, offices, and stores

**Industrial Carpenter** – works on factories and large projects

**Framer** – builds the structure (walls, floors, roofs)

**Flooring Installer** – installs hardwood, laminate, and other floors

**Cabinetmaker/Millworker** – builds cabinets, shelves, and trim

**Furniture Maker** – builds tables, desks, and chairs

**Scenic/Set Builder** – creates theater, movie, and TV sets

**Marine Carpenter/Shipwright** – builds boats, ships, and docks

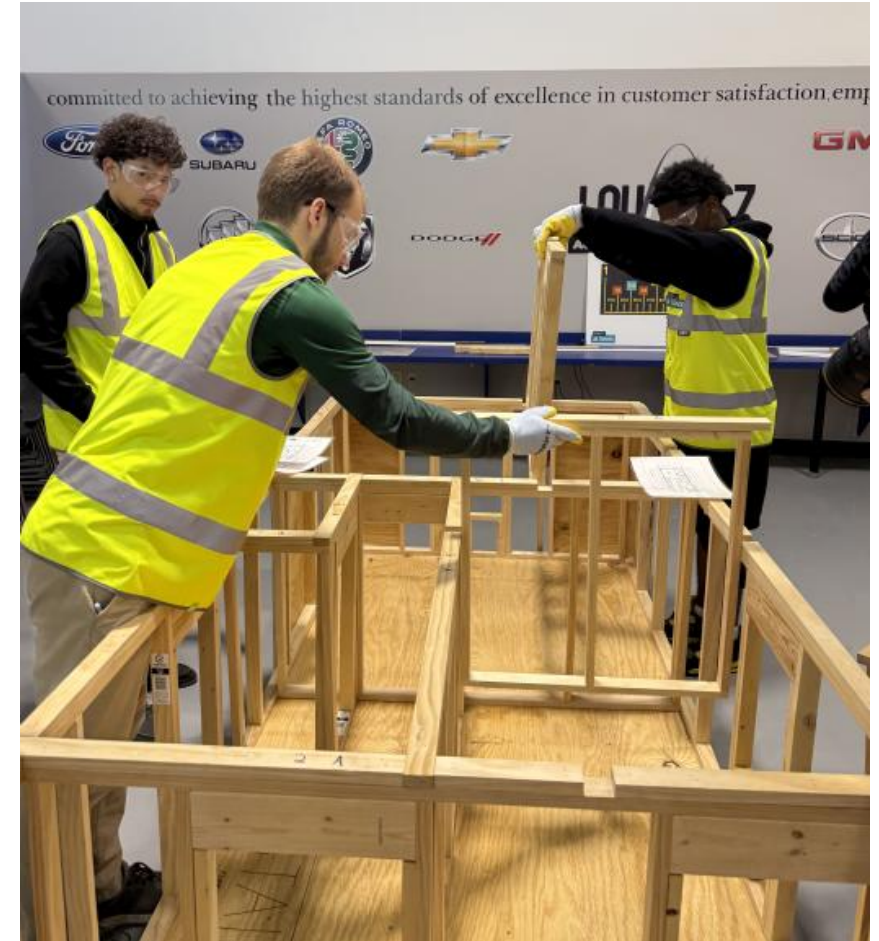
# Certification Information

- **High School diploma or GED**
- **Apprenticeship**
- **On-the job training**
- **Trade School or Vocational Training**
- **Certification or Licensing**



# Student Activities

- **Activity 1: Understanding Blueprints**
- **Activity 2: Measuring with a Tape Measure**
- **Activity 3: Adding Inside Walls**
- **Activity 4: Using a Bubble Level**



# What students should expect?

- Hands-On Work: Learn by building.
- Tool Safety: Practice using tools safely and correctly.
- Math Skills: Use measuring and basic math in every project.
- Teamwork: Work together and follow directions.
- Problem Solving: Fix mistakes and adjust plans.
- Patience: Take your time and focus on details.
- Real-Life Skills: Gain experience useful in many jobs.

# Simulation Activity Instructions



## Carpentry Volunteer Guide

Carpenters play a critical role in building homes and structures by creating the frames that give buildings their shape, strength, and stability. Before walls, roofs, or finishes can be added, carpenters carefully measure, cut, and assemble wood pieces to form a solid framework. They use tools of the trade such as tape measures, levels, squares, drills, and blueprints to make sure everything is accurate, straight, and safe. At this station, students will step into the role of a carpenter using real construction skills to measure, read blueprints, and build a mini house frame, just like professionals do on a job site.

Before the session begins, please review:

- Carpentry Volunteer Guide
- Framing Blueprints, Tape Measures, Levels
- Mini House Frames

Instructions: **Bolded** sections are to be read aloud.

### Introduction

Greet students as they arrive.

Welcome to Carpentry! Today we are going to

- Discuss **what carpenters do.**
- Learn about some tools of the trade.
- Complete a framing activity.

**What Is a Carpenter?** Discuss.

A carpenter is a **skilled trades worker** who

- **Builds structures using wood and other materials.**
- Turns plans and drawings into real buildings like the walls, floors, and roofs in homes, schools, stores, and theaters.
- **Is essential** because other trades, like electricians and plumbers, rely on the structure carpenters build first.

- 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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