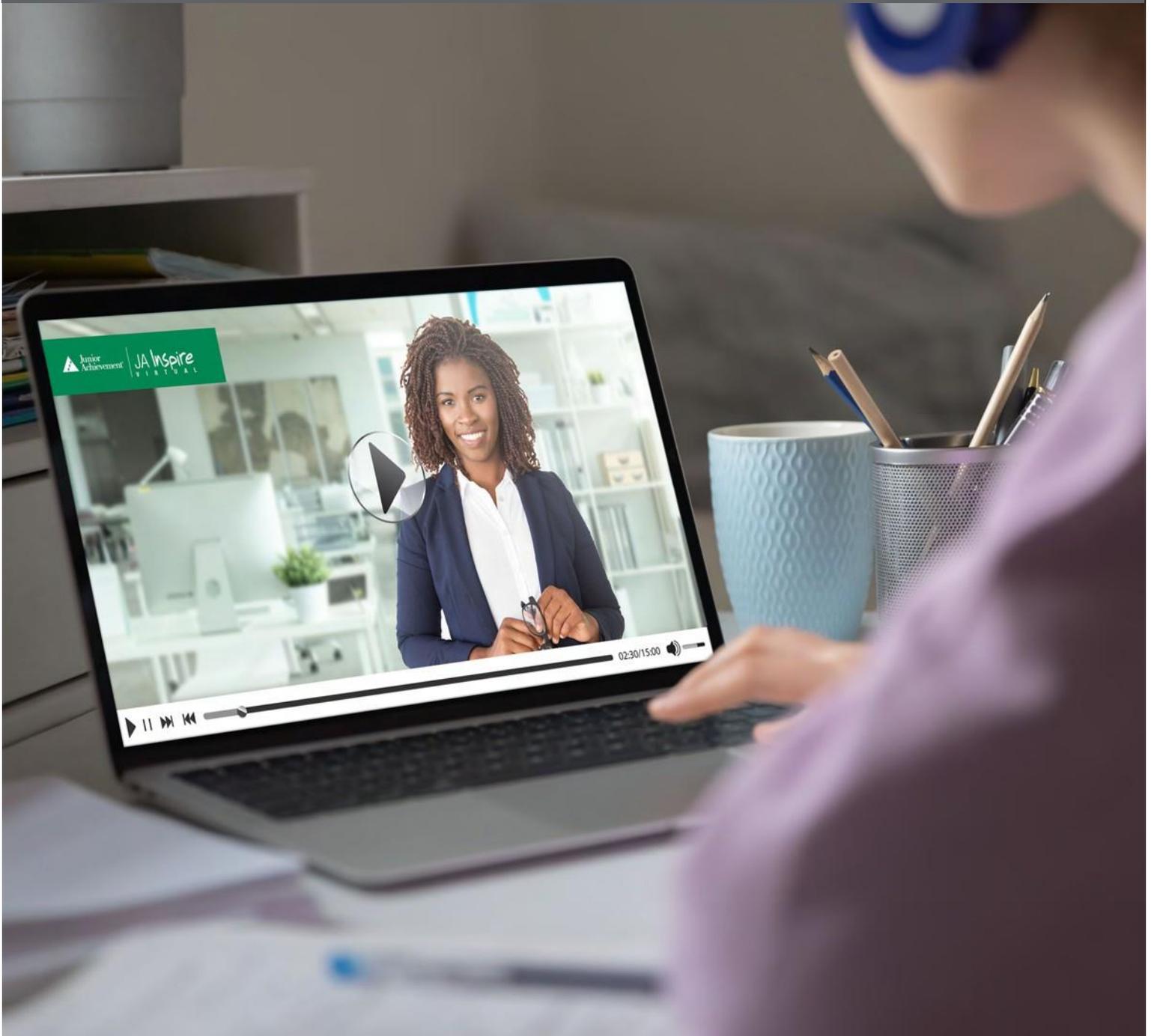# Junior Achievement™ of Central Maryland | JA Inspire® Virtual

Student Activity Book

2023-2024

Table of Contents

Welcome to JA Inspire Virtual

JA Inspire Virtual is a powerful career exploration program offered by Junior Achievement. Companies throughout our community have come together in one virtual space to share careers and career advice with you!

How do I use my Student Activity Book?
This book includes three lessons to complete prior to the virtual career fair, one lesson to complete during your visit to the career fair, and one lesson to complete after the career fair. Each lesson includes a student activity sheet.

When are the Activity Sheets due to my teacher?
Check with your teacher for due dates.

What companies will be at JA Inspire Virtual Day?
See a full list of business participating in the virtual career fair by visiting this URL:
[JA Inspire Virtual: Exhibitor Guide](#)

How do I visit the virtual career fair website?
On your event date, you will log on to the virtual career fair website. You can use a computer, tablet, or cell phone. A few days beforehand, your teacher will provide your username (an email address) to log on. You do not need a password.

Beginning on your event date, the career fair is open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and you may stay as long as you want. Following your event date, the career fair is available 24 hours a day.

Lesson 1 - Why Career Planning is Important

In this session, you discover the importance of career planning and evaluating personal interests and abilities. Learn why figuring out what you love to do and getting paid to do it will lead to a fulfilling career!

Directions:

1. Click on the image below and watch the video ***Why Career Planning is Important.***
2. Answer the questions on the next page.

Activity Sheet 1 - Why Career Planning is Important

Once completed, save as a PDF to your device.

What is career planning?

What is the key to satisfaction and success when choosing a career?

Why is it important to start career planning now?

Lesson 2 - Developing a Career Plan

In this session, you learn that it is important to match your personal interests, abilities, and strengths to job opportunities.

Directions:

1. Click on the image below and watch the video *Developing a Career Plan.*
2. Answer the questions on the next page.
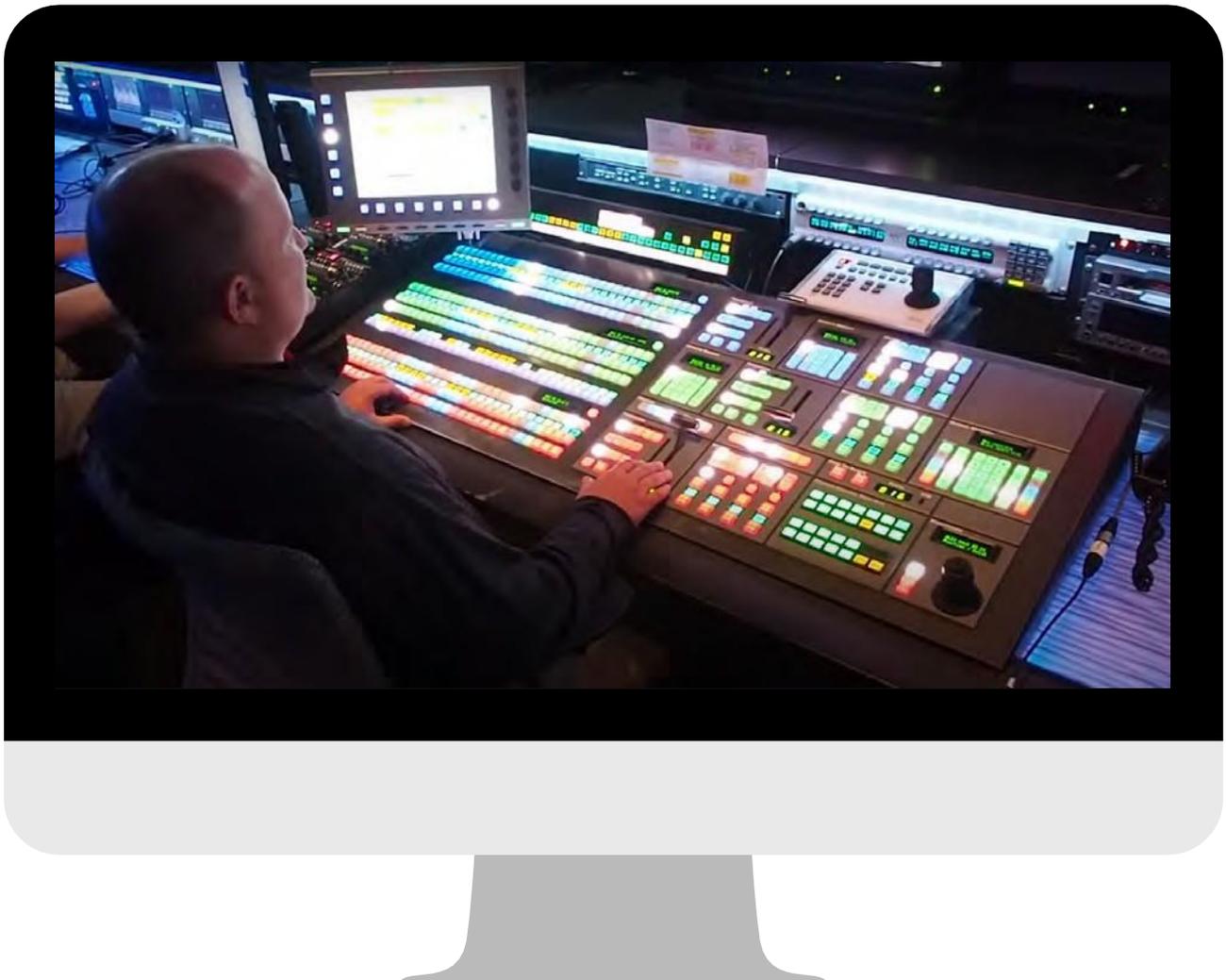
Activity Sheet 2 - Developing a Career Plan

Once completed, save a PDF copy to your device.

Why is it important to identify your interests and skills?

List two subjects you like in school. How can your success and/or interest in these subjects help you with choosing a career?

Name two ways to research a career. Which research method would be the most valuable for you and why?

Lesson 3- Jobs in the Virtual Career Fair

It is time to develop your plan for visiting the virtual career fair. On that day, you will log on to a website with over 70 virtual booths filled with career information.

Directions:

1. Check out the **Top 10 careers that interest you.**
2. Complete the Activity Sheet 3. Once complete, save a PDF copy to your device.
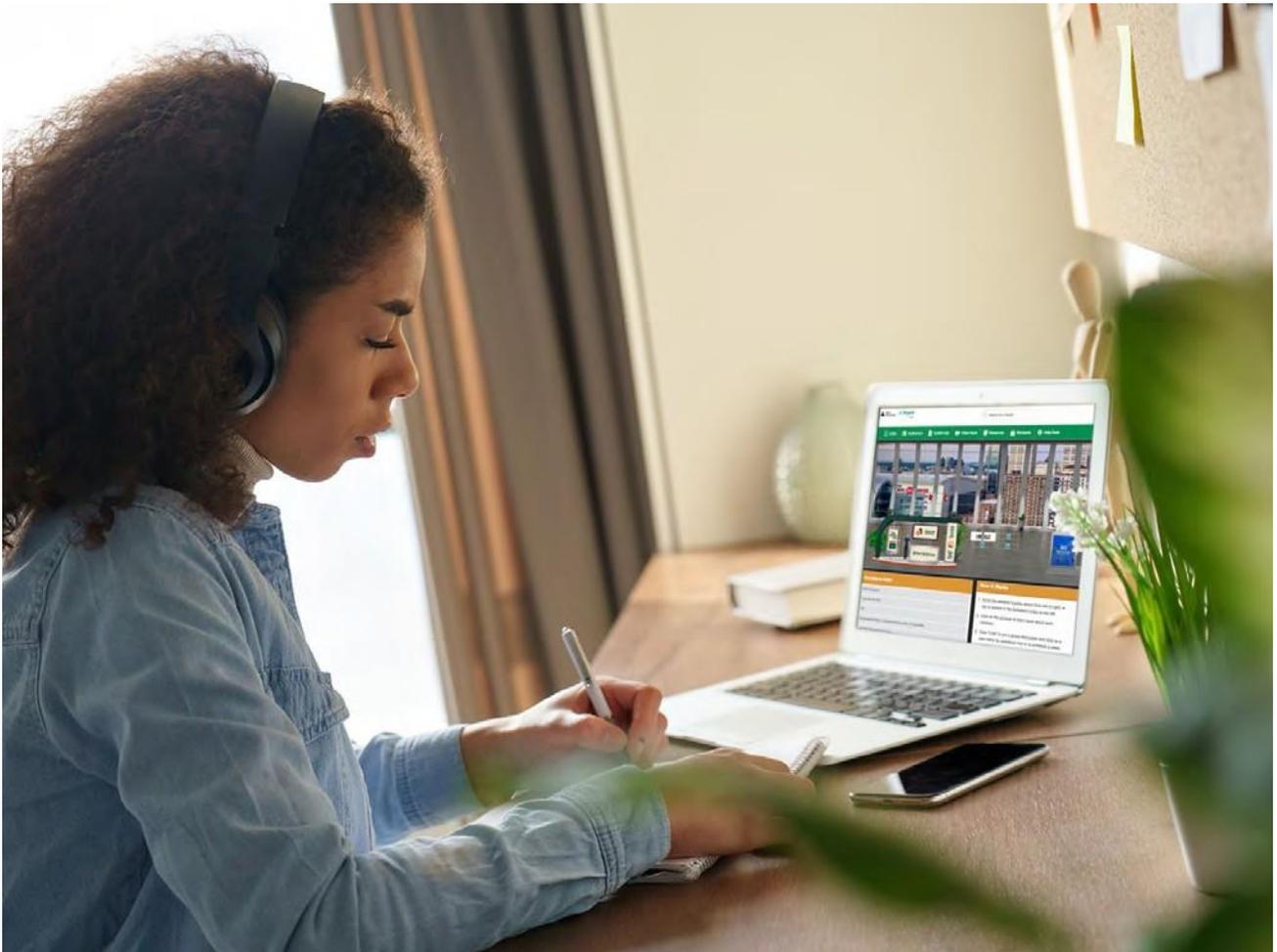
Arts, Media & Communications

Do you think you might like to:
- Design, produce, or perform?
- Combine creative abilities with technical skills?
- Share stories or entertain others through various multimedia formats?

What can I be?

- ☐ Graphic Designer
- ☐ Web Designer
- ☐ Interior Designer
- ☐ Producer
- ☐ Director
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Specialist

- ☐ Technical Writer
- ☐ Interpreter
- ☐ Translator
- ☐ Musician
- ☐ Singer
- ☐ Audio/Video
  Equipment Technician

- ☐ Merchandise Displayer
- ☐ Editor
- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Business Management & Finance

Do you think you might like to:
- Organize and plan ways to accomplish work efficiently?
- Work with people to help them plan financially for the future?
- Manage people and business projects?

What can I be?

- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Auditor
- ☐ Human Resources Specialist
- ☐ Operations Manager
- ☐ General Manager
- ☐ Secretary

- ☐ Administrative Assistant
- ☐ Marketing Manager
- ☐ Personal Financial Advisor
- ☐ Purchasing Agent
- ☐ Training & Development Specialist
- ☐ Meeting Planner

- ☐ Event Planner
- ☐ Bookkeeper
- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Consumer Services, Hospitality & Tourism

Do you think you might like to:

- Connect others with experiences they will enjoy and remember?
- Provide people with help and support when they are traveling?
- Manage a restaurant or hotel?

What can I be?

- [ ] Sales Representative
- [ ] Coach or Scout
- [ ] First-Line Supervisor
- [ ] Retail Sales Worker
- [ ] Real Estate Sales Agent
- [ ] Chef

- [ ] Head Cook
- [ ] Customer Service Representative
- [ ] Travel Agent
- [ ] Rental Clerk
- [ ] Hotel Desk Clerk

- [ ] Residential Advisor
- [ ] Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Construction & Development

Do you think you might like to:

- Design, build, or maintain structures?
- Work on a variety of projects?
- Work with your hands or perform manual labor?

What can I be?

- [ ] Architectural Drafter
- [ ] Civil Drafter
- [ ] Civil Engineering Technician
- [ ] Architect
- [ ] Civil Engineer
- [ ] Brick Mason
- [ ] Block Mason

- [ ] Carpenter
- [ ] Electrician
- [ ] Plumber
- [ ] Pipefitter
- [ ] Heating & Air Conditioning Installer
- [ ] Heating & Air Conditioning Mechanic

- [ ] Maintenance Worker
- [ ] Repair Worker
- [ ] Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Environmental, Agriculture & Natural Resource Systems

Do you think you might like to:

- Protect and preserve our environment?
- Work outdoors?
- Work with animals?

What can I be?

- ☐ Veterinary Technologist
- ☐ Veterinary Technician
- ☐ Veterinary
- ☐ Pest Control Worker
- ☐ First-Line Supervisor of Landscaping & Lawn Workers
- ☐ Fisher
- ☐ Floral Designer
- ☐ Farmworker
- ☐ Environmental Scientist
- ☐ Environmental Science & Protection Technician
- ☐ Water Treatment Plant Operator
- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Health & Biosciences

Do you think you might like to:

- Help people who are sick feel better?
- Understand how the body works?
- Solve health problems using science and technology?

What can I be?

- ☐ Dental Hygienist
- ☐ Registered Nurse
- ☐ Physician
- ☐ Surgeon
- ☐ Dietitian
- ☐ Medical Laboratory Technologist
- ☐ Nutritionist
- ☐ Nursing Assistant
- ☐ Parametric
- ☐ Radiologic Technician
- ☐ Physical Therapist
- ☐ Emergency Medical Technician
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Human Resource Services

Do you think you might like to:
- Teach people?
- Listen to others and provide advice?
- Protect or serve the community

What can I be?

- ☐ Paralegal
- ☐ K-12 Teacher
- ☐ Police Officer
- ☐ Firefighter
- ☐ Fitness Training or Aerobics Instructor

- ☐ Education Administrator
- ☐ Preschool Teacher
- ☐ College Professor
- ☐ Child, Family or School Social Worker

- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Information & Technology

Do you think you might like to:
- Write code to solve problems using technology?
- Make Computer systems more secure?
- Help people and companies maintain and use technology?

What can I be?

- ☐ Web Developer
- ☐ Software Developer
- ☐ Computer Programmer
- ☐ Database Administrator
- ☐ Computer Network Support Specialist
- ☐ Computer Systems Analysis

- ☐ Information Security Analyst
- ☐ Computer Systems Administrator
- ☐ Computer Network Architect
- ☐ Computer User Support Specialist

- ☐ Computer Systems Administrator

- ☐ Other Jobs:
  _____
  _____
  _____

Manufacturing, Engineering & Technology

Do you think you might like to:

- Design or support the creation of consumer goods, such as cars and appliances?
- Build, maintain, and operate equipment?
- Create or support the production of feed products?

What can I be?

☐ Printing Press operator	☐ Machinist	☐ Inspector, Tester, Sorter or Weigher
☐ Baker	☐ Mechanical Engineer	
☐ Welder	☐ Industrial Engineer	☐ Other Jobs:
☐ Cutter	☐ Electrical Engineer	_____
☐ Solderer or Brazer	☐ Electrical Engineering Technician	_____
☐ Electrical Engineering Technician	☐ Electronics Engineering Technician	_____

Transportation Technology

Do you think you might like to:

- Work from a truck, boat, or plane?
- Fix planes, boats, or trucks?
- Help coordinate efficient delivery and transportation or goods?

What can I be?

☐ Airline Pilot or Co-Pilot	☐ Aircraft Mechanic	☐ Other Jobs:
☐ Slight Truck Driver	☐ Automotive Mechanic	_____
☐ Delivery Service Driver	☐ Bus Driver	_____
☐ Flight Attendant	☐ Dispatcher	_____
☐ Material Mover	☐ Captain or Mate of a Water Vessel	
☐ Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver		

Lesson 4 - How do I navigate the Career Fair Platform?

On the following pages, read about the various places that you can explore on the virtual career fair platform, including…

- Event Lobby
- Exhibit Hall
- Exhibit Booths
- Auditorium
- Help Desk
- Junior Achievement of Central Maryland's Booth
- Entrepreneurship Lounge
- Scavenger Hunt
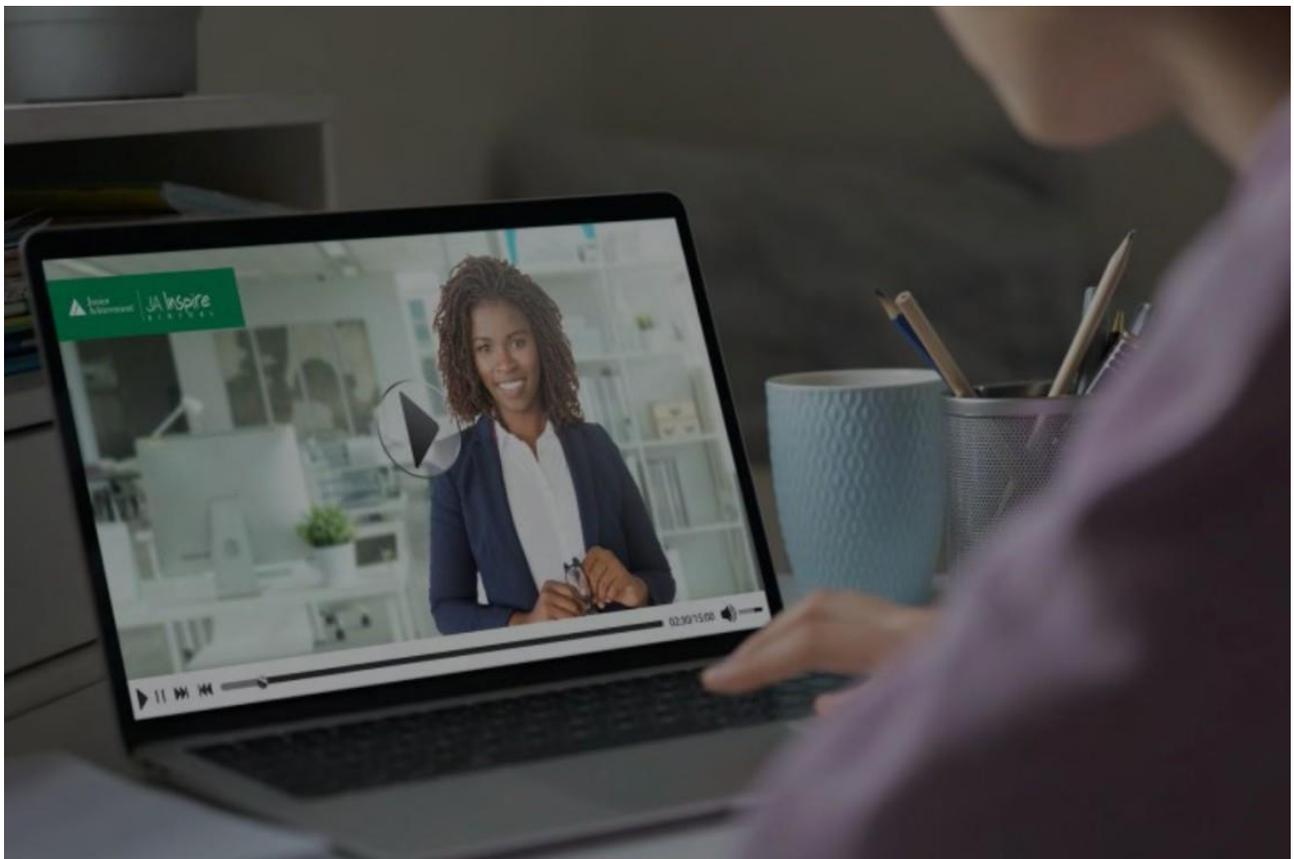
Event Lobby

After entering the Event Lobby, you can navigate to other parts of the platform, which are displayed in the green headings at the top of the platform…|

- **Exhibit Halls**-Enter one of the Exhibit Halls to visit Virtual Booths within that industry!
- **Virtual Booths**-There are dozens of Virtual Booths for you to explore! You can access these booths by scrolling through the Exhibit Halls or by searching for a company using the search box at the top of the site. You can also find a complete list of participating companies if you visit the Help Desk.
- **Auditorium**-You can visit the auditorium throughout the day to watch webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars will be available to play on demand.
  Help Desk-Get help with technical issues and general questions at the Help Desk.
- **Entrepreneurship Lounge**-Take a load off in the Entrepreneurship Lounge and hear
- special messages from famous entrepreneurs and notable JA alumni.
  Scavenger Hunt-We have hidden several JA Inspire lightbulbs throughout the
- virtual platform! Access the Scavenger Hunt by clicking on the icon from the green main header and see how many lightbulbs you can find!
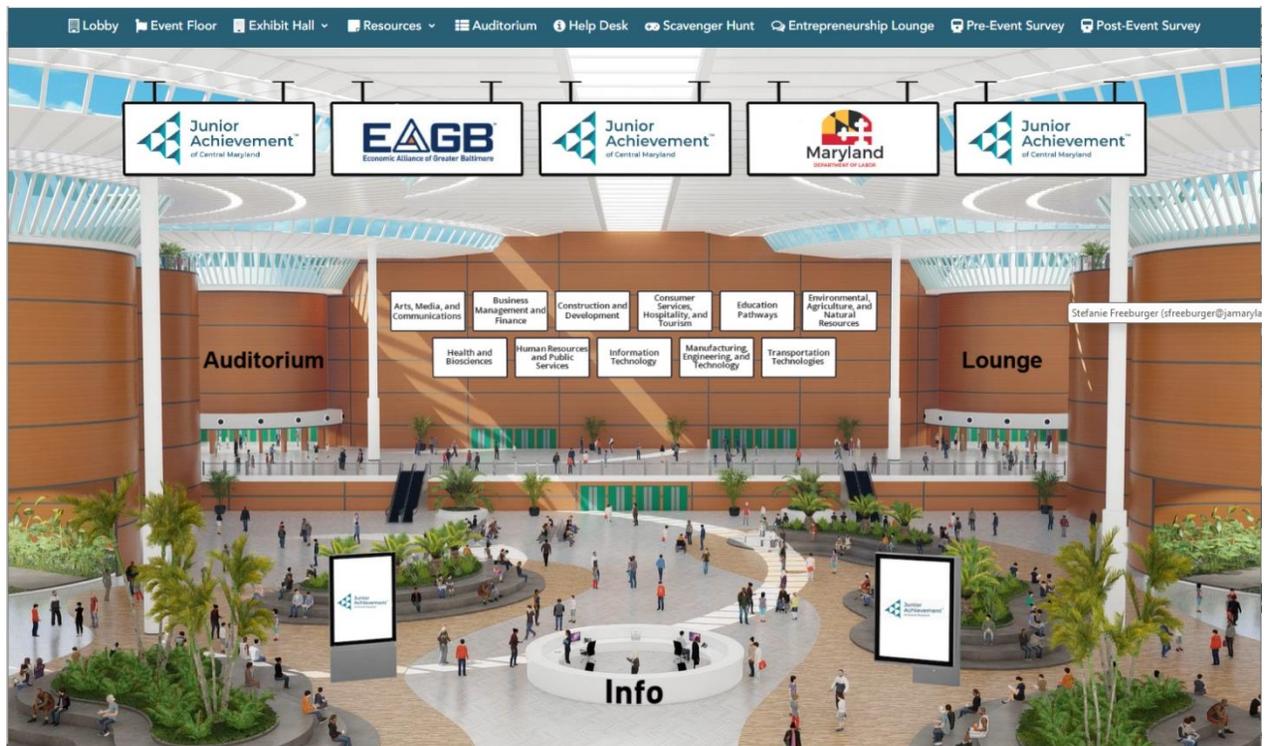
Exhibit Hall

Enter one of the Exhibit Halls to learn about industries and companies that interest you and chat with employees who work at those companies. The Exhibit Halls are below:

- Arts, Media, and Communications
- Business Management and Finance
- Construction and Development
- Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism
- Education Pathways
- Environmental, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
- Health and BioSciences
- Human Resources and Public Services
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology
- Transportation Technology

Virtual Booths

Visit Virtual Booths that interest you by searching for a company in the search box or scrolling through the Exhibit Halls. A complete list of the companies attending the event can be found at the Help Desk. After clicking on a booth icon, an enlarged version of the booth will appear. While at the booth, you can explore the various tabs to get a better idea of the company's offerings.

Auditorium

You can visit the auditorium throughout the day to watch webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars will be available to play on demand. Visit the Auditorium to see which webinars are available.
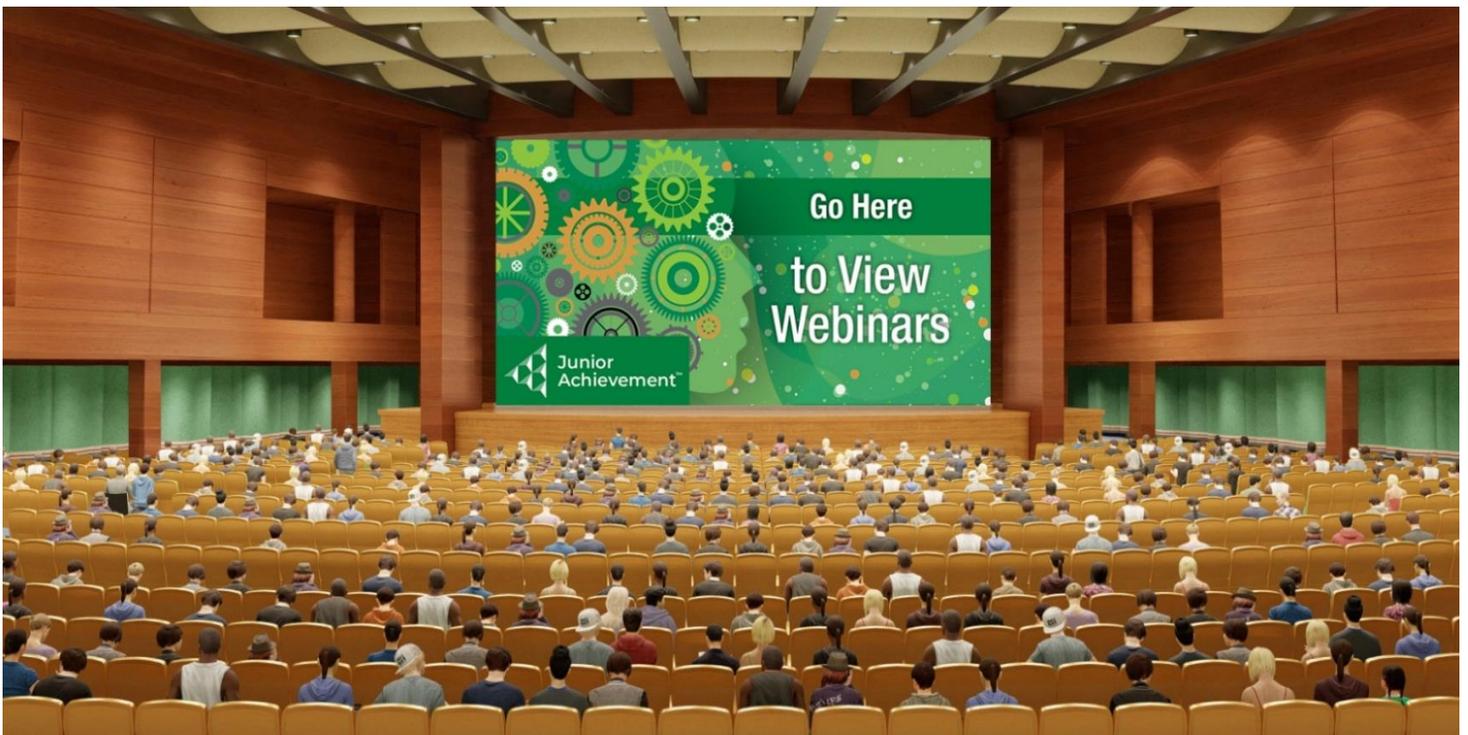
vFairs Technical Support Banner

Visit the Help Desk if you need help during the day.

Lobby | Event Floor | Exhibit Hall | Resources | Auditorium | Help Desk | Scavenger Hunt | Entrepreneurship Lounge | Pre-Event Survey

Entrepreneurship Lounge

Take a load off in the Entrepreneurship Lounge and hear special messages from famous entrepreneurs and notable JA alumni.

Business Perspectives from Mark Cuban

Why Entrepreneurship Now

The New JA Company Program

Lesson 5 - JA Inspire Virtual Day

On your designated JA Inspire day, you will log on to the virtual career fair website. You can use a computer, tablet, or cell phone. A few days beforehand, your teacher will provide your username (an email address) to log on. You do not need a password.

The career fair is open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and you may stay as long as you want. Following your event day, the career fair is available 24 hours a day.

How do I use the career fair platform? Please refer to pages 12-18.

Your goals for the day:

- Visit your **Top 10 Virtual Booths**. You may visit more than 10 booths.
- Visit the Auditorium to view **Webinars**.
- Complete the post-survey (found in the green main header) prior to exiting the platform.
- If you need technical help or have questions about the website, visit the vFairs Technical Support Banner.
- If you would like to ask the business a question, select the **Ask an Expert** link in an exhibit and enter your question. The answer will be provided to your teacher in about one week.

Directions for the Activity Sheet:
Take notes on three (3) or more companies that you visit. You will be able to visit this website after the event day, so you can record your notes during the event, later that day, or the next day.

What should I include in my notes? Here are a few suggestions:
- What I learned from looking around the virtual booths
- Careers I learned about
- Interesting information found in *Day in the Life* of an employee

Activity Sheet 5 - Notes

Once complete, save a PDF copy to your device. Take notes on three or more companies that you visit. Suggestions for your notes:

- What I learned from looking around the virtual booths.
- Careers I learned about.
- Interesting information found in *Day in the Life* of an employee.

Company 1:

Company 2:

Company 3:

Additional Companies:

JA Inspire Virtual Day is finally here!
Click **HERE** to enter the virtual career fair.

Lesson 6- Student Reflection

Step 1: Complete the form and save as a PDF.

What was your favorite booth or webinar? Why? What did you learn from this booth or webinar?

What did you learn about your original career thoughts?

What career did you find most interesting?

Describe a new career you discovered.

List of Jobs Highlighted in the Career Fair

Link to view companies in the career fair:

Search by Career Cluster