

JA Student Ambassador Scholarship

JA of Central Virginia is looking for high school students who participated in at least one JA program while in high school who can speak about the lessons they learned. You will be invited to share your story at a JA event the following school year. Not only will you be helping JA teach more students in future years, you will be introduced to JA's vast network of local employers and receive a \$2,500 scholarship upon graduation. Are you the next JA Student Ambassador?

This competition is open to students currently enrolled in 9th-12th grade who have participated in at least one JA of Central Virginia program while enrolled in high school, including through external organizations. Up to one award will be given to a high school senior. Multiple awards may be given.

Prompt

Assume the judges know nothing about JA programs. Please include concrete examples where possible and address all components.

1. Describe your experience in a JA program, including the name of the program and, if applicable, how a volunteer played a role. (100-200 words)
2. If you could participate again, what would you do differently before or during the program? (100-200 words)
3. In what ways has participating in a JA program made you more "future-ready?" Consider changes in habits, decisions, plans, and/or mindset, and provide evidence where possible. (250-350 words)
4. What would you say to convince a friend to participate in this program? (100-200 words)
5. Tell us about your education and career plans. Consider your short-term and long-term goals in your response. (100-200 words)

Students, Keep these Guidelines in Mind

- Ask a teacher or other adult to assist in reviewing your answers.
- Use your own voice, not AI.
- Take time to reflect and plan your responses. Edit and revise before submitting.
- Be authentic. Demonstrate genuine impact through stories. Include details to support big ideas.
- Imagine the judge is a local business owner who knows nothing about JA.

Submit this scholarship application by 11:59 p.m., June 5, 2026.

Winners will be posted once individually notified. See all rules and regulations below.

Rules

1. Application and Video

- Application must be completed by the deadline. Applicants may only submit one entry per school year.
- Submissions must be the original work of the applicant. They must not contain material that infringes on the intellectual property rights of others or utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI). Any applicant who violates these rules will be disqualified and any awards made for such will be rescinded and must be returned to Junior Achievement.
- Junior Achievement will collect personally identifiable information about applicants as part of the application process. This information will be used to contact applicants in connection with the competition and in announcements, events, and press releases related to the competition and will be provided only to parties related to Junior Achievement of Central Virginia ("Junior Achievement"), and the applicant's school and legal guardians. No personally identifiable information about the applicants outside of the prompt responses will be revealed to any member of the judging committee during the judging process.

2. Awards

- The winning applicant(s) will be determined by a judging committee selected by Junior Achievement.
- Applicants may be asked to participate in an in-person interview with Junior Achievement staff and/or judging committee members.
- An unspecified number of applicants will be chosen to receive a \$2,500 scholarship each. Up to one graduating senior may be chosen.
- The scholarship must be applied to higher education expenses.
- **The winner(s) must be available to attend at least one of two JA events in the following school year where they will share their story onstage to 100-400 attendees. Winners' application submission may be published on the JA website and may be used in marketing on social media, print and radio/TV.**
- Winner(s) will be individually notified prior to public announcement in summer 2026.

3. Who May Enter

- High school applicant must have participated in one or more Junior Achievement of Central Virginia programs while enrolled in high school. Programs in which the applicant may have participated include:

<i>JA Be Entrepreneurial</i>	<i>JA Economics</i>	<i>JA Job Shadow</i>
<i>JA Business and Technology 1 or 2</i>	<i>JA Entrepreneurial Mindset</i>	<i>JA Marketing Principles 1 or 2</i>
<i>JA Business Communications</i>	<i>JA Finance Park</i>	<i>JA Personal Finance</i>
<i>JA Career Speakers</i>	<i>JA Financial Capability 1 or 2</i>	<i>JA StartUp (competition)</i>
<i>JA Career Success</i>	<i>JA Financial Literacy</i>	<i>JA Titan</i>
<i>JA Company Program</i>	<i>JA High School Heroes</i>	
- Applicant must be a student enrolled in 9th-12th grade at a high school or home school program in Junior Achievement of Central Virginia's Franchised Region on the date on which he or she submits a conforming video and application. Junior Achievement of Central Virginia's Franchised Region comprises the following counties and cities:
 - **Albemarle, Amelia, Augusta, Buckingham, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Charlottesville, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Cumberland, Danville, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, Louisa, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, Orange, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, City of Richmond, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Staunton, Surry, Waynesboro**
- Applicant must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States.
- Immediate family members of judging committee members are ineligible for this competition. Immediate family members of employees of Junior Achievement, the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement, the Young Professionals Board of Junior Achievement, the Educational Advisory Committee of Junior Achievement and the Advisory Board of Junior Achievement are also ineligible.
- Grand Prize winners from any prior JA scholarship competition are ineligible for this competition.
- Each applicant may only enter one complete application each application cycle.

4. How to Enter

- Applicants must submit their applications to Junior Achievement between December 15, 2025 – June 5, 2026. Applications received after 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2026 will not qualify and will not be considered.
- Applicants must submit an application form via the link found on the centralva.ja.org website. Applications submitted by mail, courier, fax, or any means other than the competition's website will not qualify and will not be considered.
- Applications submitted incomplete or by an applicant who does not meet the qualifications of the competition will not qualify and will not be considered for any award.
- Junior Achievement of Central Virginia is the official timekeeper of the event.

5. Conditions for Participation

- All submitted application responses become the exclusive intellectual property of Junior Achievement, and Junior Achievement obtains all rights to use and republish all or any part of such videos upon submission to our website.
- Junior Achievement may use prizewinners' names, likeness, and other identifying information (such as hometown, school, or grade) in promotional materials relating to this competition.
- Winners (or their parents or guardians) will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility, originality, and compliance with the official rules, a liability release, and a publicity release as a condition to receiving their scholarship.
- Winners will be required to have an educator, guidance counselor, or other official at their school or home school program in the Franchised Region submit verification of the winner's school enrollment in the Franchised Region on the date of submission.
- Winners will be required to provide written evidence from an institution of higher education confirming their intent to matriculate to that institution as a condition to receiving their scholarship.
- Winners will be required to affirm that the scholarship will be used solely for paying expenses incurred as part of attending an institution of higher education as a condition to receiving their scholarship.
- All taxes shall be the responsibility of the winners of the competition. Winners will be required to submit a completed IRS Form W-9 to Junior Achievement as a condition to receiving their scholarship.
- The scholarship will be disbursed to each winner in June of the calendar year that the winner will matriculate to the verified institution of higher education.
- **Each student winner must remain enrolled in a school within the JACV footprint until May 13, 2026 in order to be eligible to receive the scholarship in June of their final year of high school. If the winner is a graduating senior, this condition does not apply, but all efforts must be made to return to speak at a JA event the following school year.**
- Scholarship must be used within one year of high school graduation.
- By submitting an application to Junior Achievement, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules and on Junior Achievement's website governing the 2026 JA Student Ambassador Competition.

6. Miscellaneous

- No application will be given preference over any other submission on the basis of an applicant's name, school, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected status.
- Applicant acknowledges that Junior Achievement shall have no liability of any kind as a result of any errors or omissions in the administration of this competition, or any network or website errors or incompatibilities, and by entering this competition applicant releases any and all claims applicant may have against Junior Achievement in this regard.
- No applications will be returned to applicants.
- No notice will be given to applicants with non-winning or non-conforming essays or applications.
- Junior Achievement of Central Virginia will adhere to its [privacy policy](#).
- Junior Achievement of Central Virginia has the right to modify this contest for situations that may be out of its control.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact [Cynthia Pantaleo](#).