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. 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. What would you want someone to know about your JA experience and why? (100-200 words)
2. Describe your experience, including the name of the program, important activity steps, and, if applicable, how a volunteer played a role. (100-200 words)
3. What advice would you give to someone who will be participating in this JA experience in the future? (50-200 words)
4. 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)
5. Tell us about your short-term and long-term goals. Consider your education and career plans in your response. (100-200 words)

Students, Keep these Guidelines in Mind

- Ask a teacher or other adult to assist in reviewing your answers, ***not AI***.
- Use your own voice, ***not AI.*** We could ask AI too, but we prefer to pay you to share **your** thoughts.
- 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.
- Puedes escribir tus respuestas en español.

Submit this scholarship application by 11:59 p.m., June 4, 2027.

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

Rules

1. Application

- Application must be completed by the deadline. Applicants may only submit one complete 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 winners will be determined by a judging committee selected by Junior Achievement.
- Applicants may be asked to participate in an in-person or virtual 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.
- The scholarship must be applied to qualifying expenses necessary for (1) an accredited institution of higher education, (2) a registered apprenticeship, or (3) a professional credentialing or certification program, as detailed on the **Invest529 website**.
- **Winners must be available to attend a JA event in the following school year where they will share their story onstage to 100-400 attendees.** If the winner is a graduated senior, all efforts must be made to return to speak at a JA event the following school year, but the award may still be disbursed having not met this condition.
- **Winners' application submission may be published on the JA website and may be used in marketing on social media, print and radio/TV.**
- Winners will be individually notified prior to public announcement by September 2027.

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:

JA Be Entrepreneurial	*JA Future Ready Leaders*
JA Career Speakers	*JA High School Heroes*
JA Career Success	*JA Job Shadow*
JA Company Program	*JA Personal Finance*
JA Finance Park	*JA Titan*

- 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 Region on the date on which he or she submits a conforming application. Junior Achievement of Central Virginia's Region comprises the following counties and cities:

  Albemarle, Amelia, Augusta, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Charlottesville, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Cumberland, Danville, Dinwiddie, Emporia, Essex, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King and Queen, King William, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenberg, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, Orange, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, City of Richmond, Richmond County, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Staunton, Surry, Sussex Waynesboro, Westmoreland

- 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, and the Educational Advisory Committee 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 October 1, 2026 – June 4, 2027. Applications received after 11:59 p.m. on June 4, 2027 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 applications 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 may request disbursement no sooner than the following June after winner notification and must fulfill all conditions laid out in the Official Rules to receive award.**
- 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 may be required to have an educator, guidance counselor, or other official at their school or home school program in the Region submit verification of the winner's school enrollment in the Region on the date of submission.
- **To initiate disbursement, winners will be required to provide Junior Achievement with written evidence of acceptance in (1) an accredited institution of higher education, (2) a registered apprenticeship, or (3) a professional credentialing or certification program confirming their intent to enroll as a condition to receiving their award.**
- 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, participating in a registered apprenticeship, and/or completing credentialing or certification programs (including required continuing education, professional licensure, and other required fees or equipment) 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.
- **Winners must remain enrolled in a school within the JACV footprint until May 13, 2027, in order to be eligible to receive the scholarship after their final year of high school.** If the winner is a graduated senior, all efforts must be made to return to speak at a JA event the school year following award notification, but the scholarship may still be disbursed having not met this condition.
- **Scholarship must be used within three years 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 2027 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.