

## JA NEPA News - November 2023



*Students in our new **JA Company Insight** program with **GUARD Insurance***

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new pilot program, called **JA Company Insight**, in collaboration with Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies, Wilkes-Barre, to provide students in Wilkes-Barre Area's Business Academy a better understanding of the types of jobs available in the insurance industry and the requirements for various positions at GUARD.

On November 29, students (pictured above) visited GUARD for a job fair where they interacted with representatives from many different departments and learned about the career opportunities available to both high school and college graduates.

GUARD employees have been working with students in their classroom, utilizing JA curriculum, to help students work on resumes and polish interview and presentation skills through a six-week Junior Achievement course.

JA Company Insight will culminate with students returning to GUARD in the spring to experience a job shadow day with employees in a department in their area of interest.

"Students participating in the program will shadow employees in various GUARD departments to obtain a feel for the day-to-day operations of a potential future career," said Hal Gabriel, Administrator of the Business Academy and Special Programs at Wilkes-Barre Area. "They will also learn about some of the incentive programs GUARD offers, including internships, hiring and training opportunities, and tuition reimbursement benefits," added Carl Witkowski, Chief



A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers pictured above who delivered the YES! (Your Economic Success) Day program to almost 400 students at West Scranton Intermediate School earlier this month.

Some feedback from students at West Scranton:

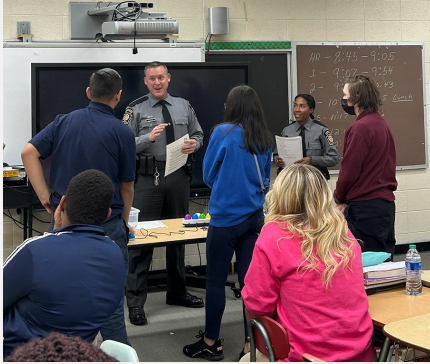
- *Thank you for helping me figure out my career. At first I had too many careers I wanted choose but now I narrowed down the careers that sound fun to me. Thank you for your help.*
- *Thank you for helping put my mind in the right place and direction towards potential future opportunities.*
- *I would thank the volunteers for coming to our school to educate us about ways to budget, find jobs, and help build interest in other jobs for everyone.*
- *Thank you for opening my eyes a little bit to see what I really want to do.*
- *Thank you very much for helping me figure out more about careers. I learned what I might like to do when I am older and I also learned how to deal with finance related things.*

Our YES! Day program for middle schoolers is a morning of hands-on, interactive sessions designed to help tweens and teens think about their futures. Each student participates in sessions such as the **trades, career interests, manufacturing and STEM** through games, videos, questionnaires, and more. [Check out this news coverage](#) of our event at G.A.R.

**We need volunteers like you** to continue providing this vital information to our area youth. If you can help at any of our upcoming morning programs, [please sign up](#).

**Old Forge Junior High School: February 9**

## Volunteer Sign-Up Form



### It's Easy to Volunteer

The one question we get the most is **"What's entailed in volunteering?"**

We promise: It's easy and you will have a great time with the students!

- JA provides everything you need to present your session to the students.
- You meet with your team prior to going to the classroom and are given detailed directions.
- Easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions are provided to each group along with all materials.
- The teacher is always with their students.

Note: You don't have to have any experience in the session topic you are presenting. *You just need to be willing to make a difference.*

Questions? Email [Ariah Saeed](#).



**Volunteer Now**

*Thank you to the following local businesses and organizations for allowing their employees to volunteer with our YES! Day program:*

**West Scranton Intermediate School Business Volunteers, 11/15/23**

- Dempsey Uniform and Linen Supply
- Enterprise

- Fidelity Bank
- Ignation Volunteer Corps of NEPA
- King's College
- PA State Police
- PNC
- Sanofi
- Scranton Area Community Foundation
- Scranton School District
- UGI Utilities
- University of Scranton
- Wells Fargo

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## Thank You JA NEPA Board Members



*Some of our Board members and staff after the November 30 meeting.*

Our Board of Directors met on November 30 for their annual meeting. Several members had to leave prior to the photo and while others joined us virtually for the meeting. We sincerely appreciate their dedication and support of our JA programming in NEPA.

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**Inspire Career Discovery Experience**  
Save the Date -- April 16 and 17



We are looking forward to our 2nd annual Inspire Career Discovery Experience on April 16-17! We have expanded to a two-day event to engage even more high school students in hands-on, experiential exhibits with local companies to expose them to career opportunities, create connections, and help inspire them toward a pathway for future success.

Check out this [2-minute video](#) of last year's event.

If you'd like to discuss opportunities to present your business or trade to 3,000 high school students at this year's Experience please email [Alysia Clancy](#).



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