



**Sara Longley**

12th grade

**Cassville High School**

Nathan Fortner, JAG Specialist

## **What All Missourians Should Know About JAG**

J.A.G. You probably don't know what that is. Well you're not the only one, most Missourians have no idea what J.A.G is. J.A.G stands for Jobs for America's Graduates, this can come off as confusing due to J.A.G being a middle and high school club. Most don't understand what the club is all about and I am here to explain the many opportunities, advantages, and life lessons you can learn from J.A.G.

Jobs for America's Graduates helps students recognize and unleash their potential by ensuring they graduate from high school and are ready to move forward with their life. After participating in J.A.G, my horizons were broadened, I was able to step out of my comfort zone and realize my full potential. I am now the best version of myself and I am running my own business teaching those younger than me what I love to do. I could not have done this without the help of J.A.G. I have struggled with many things in my life such as being uncomfortable with who I am, not wanting to stand out, being put down by others, and never being able to step out of my comfort zone and now I am able to do all of these things with confidence. I truly believe that J.A.G has changed my life for the better. I am a senior, and I would love to pursue my business after high school. I strongly believe that this can happen with the help of J.A.G even after I graduate.

J.A.G is a good club for everyone, but is more structured to those with academic potential, but who also face significant barriers. There are many useful skills and life lessons that one can learn from J.A.G. Jobs for American graduates can teach you job interview etiquette, public speaking, basic social skills, project-based learning and can help you understand what career you want to further yourself in. Ever since J.A.G was introduced, students in J.A.G have achieved a high school graduation rate of 90% or higher, compared to the 84% percent in previous years. After completing high school and being involved in jobs for

America's graduates the advisor will continuously check up on how you are doing a year after graduating asking how your career or schooling is going, and they will record this information.

Jobs for America's Graduates offers many opportunities for those within the club. J.A.G students will participate in many trips, job shadowing opportunities, and events with the community. Those students who participate in J.A.G will attend job fairs in local communities and will visit jobs site of their choice by contacting those within the job to set up a time to visit during these trips you will learn about the job, tour the job site, and will be able to ask as many questions as needed. This helps students have a better understanding on how they want to further their career. Some of the many trips that are taken are leadership workshops, J.A.G conventions, and officers sometimes get the opportunity to take amazing trips to the Governor's mansion, Washington D.C, and some other trips out of state. The trip to the Governor's mansion can be taken by winning the essay competition done in J.A.G.

J.A.G opens up amazing opportunities for the students and the community. The skills that are learned in J.A.G are lifelong skills that will stay with you throughout the rest of your life. With the help of J.A.G you can accomplish so many things that you would never have thought you could do. The program can really help open up students' eyes and opportunities, and help students realize they are much more capable in moving forward in life, just like I did.

## Works Cited

"Missouri, Inc.." JAG, <https://jag-missouri.org/>.