

Teaching JA with a Partner

Leading the JA activities with more than one volunteer can be a great way for a new volunteer to ease into the experience. It can also be nice to have more support in a middle or high school class, where the students can be a bit more demanding and the material more complex. Below are two suggested ways to manage the team teaching partnership.

Alternate

Each volunteer can take the lead for alternating lessons. For example one volunteer would lead lesson 1, 3 and 5 while the other would lead 2 and 4. This way each volunteer can have time to review their next lesson. Another option would be to have one volunteer lead the first half of the day while the other leads the second half. Be sure to support the other volunteer when you are not leading a lesson.

One lead, one assist

This method works best when there is one volunteer who is comfortable leading and one volunteer who is not. The lead volunteer will be responsible for preparing all the lessons and leading the students through them. The assisting volunteer would add in stories from their personal and work experiences, help distribute papers, walk around and check on students during group and individual activities and anything else they are comfortable with.

Split by activity

This format is particularly effective for traditional programs, where the volunteers present only one lesson with each visit to the school. One volunteer facilitates the Introduction and Summary/Review portions of the lesson; the other volunteer leads the Activity portion. This allows both volunteers to take a leadership role in the program with each visit to the school.