

Junior Achievement gearing up for productive year

By BILL CASPER

During these tough economic times when jobs are scarce, many youths are turning to Junior Achievement to get an edge in the job market.

However, there are not as many turning to JA as its leaders would like. "We'd like to see more kids participating, and it's still not too late for new members to join JA," said Ed Miller, part-time director of JA's Redford Center at 2505 Grand River Road. The center mainly serves youths living in Redford, Livonia, Farmington and Southfield.

"We don't turn anybody away, and even though we got our current 25-week program under way Monday, there is still plenty of room for new members in any one of our seven companies," Miller said. "New members can join any time up to the last month of the current program."

MILLER, an engineering drafting specialist for the Bendix Corp., said 45 high school youths turned out for the opening session Monday night for ori-

entation and the initial planning to establish a company.

The youths form a company from scratch, beginning with the selling of stock and the purchasing of raw materials to the selling of the product the company produces, he explained.

The entire "company" meets once a week for two-hour sessions, and the youths have access to the center every Monday through Wednesday to come in and work on their own time.

"We teach how businesses operate," Miller said. "In JA, these young people learn what to expect when looking for work after high school. I believe the program is profitable and rewarding to these young adults as well as helpful to them when it comes to deciding what career avenue to take."

Miller said JA is helped by several advisors, representing such firms as Bendix Corp., Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Detroit Edison, Burroughs Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., American Motors Corp. and the National Bank of Detroit.

Each JA company is headed by five youth officers with all others forming the production staff.

EXAMPLES OF products produced by previous JA companies include magazine racks, lamps and model toys, said Miller.

Like Miller, one veteran JA member, 16-year-old Bryan Judge, a Detroit resident and junior at St. Agatha High School in Redford, is a JA believer.

"I joined JA three years ago because my brother and sister were members and I saw them gaining from it," Judge said. "I saw what JA can do in terms of better preparing you for leadership

roles. It has helped me to become more mature, and I've gotten my choice of work hours and more pay in my job outside of JA because of my experience with JA."

"I enjoy taking on the challenges afforded by JA and turning them into successes," he added.

Two new JA members said they joined hoping to improve their chances of landing a job after high school.

"I'M HOPING JA will better prepare

me for future job opportunities," said Susan Griffith, a high school junior from Southfield.

"I saw JA advertisements on TV, and it looked interesting so I checked into it and joined," said Todd Barry, a freshman at Farmington Harrison High School. "JA gives you basic knowledge of the business field, and I think it's good experience for the future."

Any high school student is eligible to join JA.

"Through JA, students meet new people, have a chance to become eligible

for college scholarships and operate a small business to earn some money," he said.

For information on the JA program, contact Miller between 7 and 9 p.m. at 538-5333.

JA of Southeastern Michigan is financially supported by more than 7,000 Michigan businesses, and about 1,000 adult volunteers from more than 160 business firms serve as company advisers guiding the young JA members.

Cranbrook looks at trip to Saturn

Past, present and future journeys through space will be explored by Robert L. Steinbacher in an illustrated lecture, "The Saturn Encounter," at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium. The institute is part of Cranbrook Educational Community at 500 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

Steinbacher will use slides and films to describe what scientists expect to learn about Saturn after Nov. 12 when Voyager 1 will fly by the planet's south pole.

Two Voyager spacecrafts were

launched from Earth in 1977. Last year they provided new information about Jupiter after passing by that planet on the way to the outer planets and out of the solar system.

Steinbacher is a member of the technical staff for mission design at California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages space missions for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Tickets, available at the museum, are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. For additional information call 645-3225.

Center lists skating hours

The ice skating arena at Southfield's Beech Woods Recreation Center is open for general skating at several different time periods each week, according to arena manager Michael Battel.

Mondays through Fridays the ice is open to general skating 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Tuesdays general skating is available 7:30-9 p.m. On Fridays hours

are 4:30-6 p.m. and 7:30-9 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays the ice arena is open to skaters 2-4 p.m. and again 7-9:30 p.m.

Beech Woods Recreation Center is at 22200 Beech Road, just south of Nine Mile. For more information, call the center at 354-9510.

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