



# ACTON ACADEMY

## EAST BAY

### The Game of Life Quest Overview

A Middle School and Launchpad real-world skill-building year-long quest.

**Ideation:** Upon completing this project, students should have experienced multiple real-world scenarios that will prepare them for adult life. Getting hands-on with important and challenging aspects such as, personal finance, understanding taxes, emergencies, choosing health insurance, purchasing a home, debt, raising a flour sack child, and so much more.

Learners will choose a job, receive paychecks, pay bills, experience taking care of a child (flour sack), pay their taxes, learn about homemaking, respond to emergencies, and so much more. Ultimately allowing them to see what life can be like as an adult. These skills are essential and often overlooked in education, allowing our learners to get hands-on with these experiences only prepares them for life after college.

Ongoing evaluation of output will grant adjustments to the content whether it be daily, by session, or the ultimate annual objectives.

#### Objectives:

- Demonstrate the ability to understand basic financial literacy, terms, and processes (i.e. debit, savings, credit, etc....)
- Can understand, draw up, and apply a budget to any given situation.
- Can apply decision-making skills in the management of personal, family, and household resources for everyday living.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of appropriate terminology, procedures, principles (main concepts), and practices in relation to the course content

**Deliverables:** By the end of the school year, Eagles will have a personal portfolio and journal of all the choices they made, the reasons behind those choices, and a better understanding of what is to come as they become young adults. Ending with an Exhibition that shows where they are financially and what they have overcome, learned, and persevered through.

#### Project Deliverables:

- Year-long Bank Account history and financial statements
  - Balanced checkbook, 401k, stocks, property investments, etc....
- Journal showcasing all decisions and reasoning behind them.
- Completed tax documents W2, I9, 1099's, etc...
- Documented Paycheck statements and monthly bills
- Savings budget documents

**Some Examples of the Online Resources & Tools to be used:**

- [Personal Finance Lab](#)
- [How to Not Suck at Money](#)
- [Understanding Taxes](#) - IRS
- [Tax Simulations](#) - IRS
- [Turobo Tax Simulations](#)
- [FutureScapes](#) - Personality Job Matching
- [The Stock Market Game](#)
- [Bankaroo](#) - Banking App for tracking Income

**Session Break Downs:**

**Session 2 - Project Introduction & Basic Needs Discovery**

At the beginning of Session 2, learners will take a basic personality assessment that, based on their test results, will give them a handful of compatible jobs. From these jobs, the learners will choose what interests them most, and begin research on the average salary, and cost to attend college for this job.

Once learners complete their initial personality testing and job choice, their “life” will begin. They will receive paychecks, have bills to pay, and immediately look for a living situation that suits their needs. Throughout the session, Eagles will get a grasp on understanding their income, monthly bills, and the cost of living in their neighborhood.

**Preview of S2 Objectives: (Beginning Portfolio)**

- Completed Personality Test documented
- Recieve Job Salary and College Cost
- Cost of Living (Current to the Studio Location, i.e. AAEB = California)

**Highlights for this session:**

- Creating a grocery list and going to the store to shop to understand how much a weekly bill might cost.
- Getting a “paycheck” each Friday and using a “checkbook” to pay their bills.

### **Session 3 - Big Purchases, Debt, and Credit Cards**

Throughout Session 3 learners will continue to participate in their daily life challenges while being introduced to new topics. Since Session 3 is during the holiday season, the learners will be introduced to credit cards, debt, and spending money on big purchases.

#### **Preview of S3 Objectives:**

- Complete a credit card application (using fake information)
- Create a savings budget, and make judgment calls on purchases
- Develop an understanding of interest rates when making purchases on credit cards.

#### **Highlights for this session:**

- Eagles will create their Christmas wishlist, and be challenged to research the cost of items in relation to their income.
- Eagles will complete a fake credit card application, possibly getting denied, reviewing Credit Card terms and conditions.

### **Session 4 - Growing Family, Health Insurance, and Emergency Situations**

During Session 4, our Eagles will grow their families, learn about health insurance, and understand the cost of emergencies. At the beginning of the Session, our Eagles will take on the challenge of caring for a Flour Sack child!

#### **Preview of S4 Objectives:**

- Research and learn about healthcare plans, and apply this knowledge to choosing a healthcare plan to pay going forward.
- Develop an understanding of the challenges that come with taking care of a child.
- Understanding the importance of an emergency savings plan.

#### **Highlights for this session:**

- Throughout the Session your Eagles will tend to their flour sack child, They may hear crying noises paid through the studio speakers, be challenged to create clothing, name them, etc... (For a fun twist Parents may be asked to challenge their Eagles in this way at home)
- Eagles will be challenged with an emergency each week that forces them to make difficult decisions, think about the impact on their families and their financials.

### **Session 5 - 401k, Yearly Taxes, Homemaking, Daily Duties, and Investing**

Throughout Session 5 the Eagles will be learning about a mixture of investing their money and homemaking skills. Since it is tax season during this session, the Eagles will go through the process of filing their taxes. They will also learn about investing their money and saving for retirement. Lastly, they will learn the basics of homemaking from making clothes, cooking meals, and even learning about daily household duties.

#### **Preview of S5 Objectives:**

- Develop an understanding of how to file taxes.
- Applying their knowledge of savings to a 401k.
- Develop an understanding of the risks and rewards of investing their money.

#### **Highlights for this session:**

- Each learner will be provided their own W2 and be required to fill out a 1040, since it is tax season, we may encourage the learners to work with their parents in understanding their family's taxes.
- Play online games that simulate the stock market and investing money.

### **Session 6 - Saving vs. Spending, Family Vacations, and Handy Work**

In Session 6, Eagles will take time to learn about spending their money for leisure. Specifically family vacations and purchasing material goods. Since Session 6 will end with the Plan-A-Trip for Middle School, their budgets and income will be taken into consideration as they figure out if they would be able to afford our School Trip. They will also learn hand work, specifically basic skills to fix items that can be found around the house.

#### **Preview of S6 Objectives:**

- Understand the cost of vacations in relation to their projected income, debt, and spending habits.
- Develop an understanding of basic skills to fix things that can be found around the house, (i.e. unclogging drains, rewiring electronics, putting together/building an item -- this may be a good opportunity to make the little library community service project)

#### **Highlights for this session:**

- Budgeting for family vacation based upon their family size.

- Having opportunities to spend money and tracking the reasoning behind the decisions.
- Building an object or furniture piece for the school

### **Session 7 - Portfolio Building & Learning about Retirement**

In the final session of this year-long quest, the Eagles will research and review what it takes to retire in California with the current standard of living they have set for themselves. They will take their current financial balances and fast forward them to retirement age. Giving them an opportunity to see that their financial decisions have led them to end their career within savings.

They will put together their final portfolio that encompasses all the decisions, activities, and challenges they faced this school year.

#### **Preview of S7 Objectives:**

- Develop an understanding of retirement qualifications and see if their 401k can support them for the remainder of their life.
- Understanding state programs that may assist in retirement.
- Researching and reviewing how healthcare may change in retirement.

#### **Highlights for this session:**

- Eagles will fast forward their finances to encompass what they would have/owe by the time they reach retirement age. This challenge is heavy in math and requires attention to detail.
- They will write a letter to their “younger self” about how their spending affects their future life.
- They will create a living trust/will for all of their assets.
- A Completed portfolio will be presented that includes all of their paychecks, bills, tax information, journal entries, etc...

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## **Badge Description for Journey Tracker**

### **Welcome to the captivating journey of The Game of Life!**

In this engaging unit, we will delve deep into the realm of financial literacy, exploring essential home economic topics, mastering the art of investing, honing your money management skills, and uncovering a wealth of knowledge about personal finance. Buckle up as we embark on this enlightening adventure that not only equips you with

practical financial wisdom but also empowers you to navigate life's financial landscapes with confidence and success

### **The Game of Life Year Long Quest Overview**

Unlock the secrets to adult life with this exciting new project! Upon completion, Eagles will have navigated a diverse range of real-world scenarios, providing them with invaluable skills for their journey into adulthood. From mastering personal finance to understanding the intricacies of taxes, handling emergencies, making critical decisions about health insurance, and even experiencing the joys and challenges of parenthood through the care of a 'flour sack child,' this project immerses learners in the essential aspects of adult life.

Through this hands-on experience, students will select jobs, receive paychecks, manage bills, pay taxes, delve into homemaking, respond to unexpected emergencies, and much more. It's a dynamic and immersive journey that offers a realistic glimpse into the complexities of adulthood. These practical skills are often overlooked in traditional education, but they are crucial for life after college. Our project equips learners with the confidence and knowledge needed to thrive in the real world, setting them on the path to success and independence.

### **Badge Requirements**

Throughout the remainder of the school year, you will work toward completing multiple challenges. In each session, you will have the opportunity to gain badges working toward your final badge at the end of the session.

In order to earn the final badge and complete this project you will need to complete the entire "Game of Life". Get to the finish line on the game board, complete each challenge, and submit your final packet for approval.

#### **Badges you will need to earn:**

- S2 Game of Life
- S3 Game of Life
- S4 Game of Life
- S5 Game of Life
- S6 Game of Life
- The Game of Life

#### **Optional Badges**

- Positive Bank Account Balance

- Taking care of twins
- Super Investor
- Savage Saver

### **Badge Approval Process**

To be approved for these badges each challenge must be completed to the best of your ability meeting all challenge requirements. You will need to have 1 peer check over and approve your work. This peer must be willing to stand by your submission and say without a shadow of a doubt that you completed the challenge for the badge.