



## *Life Goes On Sim* software game update.

April 17, 2012

Life Goes On is a unique, serious educational simulation of growing up in America. Appropriate for your teens, the ones that can't be told anything! Know the feeling? Let your teen play the game and see for himself what Life may await them. It can be played by more than one player, or the teen who wants to experience "alternate selves". "Life scores" — success in Life — are available based on several criteria, and not on the basis of financial status alone. Historical Progress Charts for game scores and Income are provided to show the growth and progress made toward your goals.

### **History**

Work on the conversion to up-to-date software is moving along quite smoothly. LGO was first developed in 1993 under FoxPro 3 software and work stopped in 1997. I was fortunate to have *The Game of Life* (the name at that time) referenced in *The Value of Family: A Blueprint for the 21st Century* (1996), by Dr. Ruth Westheimer (Dr. RUTH) and Ben Yagoda.

*"Finally, an intriguing entry ... a software program called Destination: Earth ...  
I encourage my more computer-literate readers to give it a try."*

The conversion, begun last August 2011, ran into some technical problems using JavaScript. I have converted it to the ideal device – tablets. I choose **Android** software on a 10 inch tablet as best suited for Life Goes On. (I am using Samsung Galaxy 10.1). Currently, LGO is not available for Apple devices. Under Android, LGO is set for Honeycomb 3.2, version 14, with minimum 2.2, version 8.

The results of 21 test runs under JAVA running on Windows are provided at the end of this document. A beta version under **Android** for initial testing and feedback is expected to be available by this summer.



<http://starman.com/public/lifegoesonandroid.apk>

Life Goes On Simulator Android

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### **Short description**

This program simulates, in a non-professional manner, life experiences here in the USA. Six dimensions, or aspects, of life are presented:

1. **EDUCATION** -- graduating high school through postgraduate school. Awards can be won. You can also be dropped from school for poor performance.
2. **FAMILY** -- becoming engaged, marriage, divorce, children, abortion & adoption. Spouses may or may not work.
3. **CAREERS** -- Part-time work for school as well as a number of industries are allowed. Promotions, bonuses, terminations, closed businesses and quitting are some of the events/decisions.
4. **FINANCIAL** -- Each year a budget is presented showing income and expenses as well as a financial status of what is owned and owed. You will be forced to become financially sound. Cars, houses, investment and a college fund are some categories for decision-making. Other categories are pre-calculated.
5. **CRISES** -- Although we don't like it, at some point in time in our life a crisis occurs. For the moment, the time and cause of death are pre-calculated. Other crises will be added in later versions: aids, drugs, stealing money to support a negative cash flow.
6. **SOCIAL** -- This dimension deals with social relationships; such as, club membership, sports teams, children and marriage expenses, retirement home costs, etc. (To be added).

### **SOME RULES OF THE GAME.**

#### **A. EDUCATION**

You will graduate high school. What happens from then depends on several factors. College is possible with a scholarship or by working after school. Graduate school is also possible. You choose the major from a list. If initially denied college (or you may so choose), a trade school degree followed by college is possible. If you must work and don't continue with your education, returning to college/grad school is possible at some point in time, but you will need \$40,000 in the bank (among other factors).

## B. CAREERS.

A number of job industries are provided, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT WHERE YOU CAN BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. As time goes by you will get raises and promotions, terminations, layoffs and business closing, etc. Your salary is adjusted accordingly. You can also change job industries.

Promotions and new positions are character/personality determined with a random factor applied (you may not get it even though you want it so badly).

Salary changes reflect inflationary adjustments, up or down, so an actual increase may not result. Changing jobs -- or getting a new job if terminated -- at the same position, or higher, may not result in an increase in salary. What a bummer!!

## C. FAMILY.

You can become pregnant, or father a child, while not married. Each child adds to your living expenses above a certain minimum.

Upon marriage your spouse's salary may be added to your income, if he/she works (pre-determined factor). Check your financial status. Obviously, if your spouse works then not only will assets be divided upon divorce, but your salary will also be adjusted. You can remarry if divorced.

Some people will not marry, or not have children, or not get divorced. Luck (?) of the draw!

## D. FINANCIAL

Why are finances so important? Because our society makes them so important. Income will be adjusted based on a calculated inflation percentage, which can be plus or minus. Assets are treated at purchase value with no appraisal or blue book value adjustments (too much work).

The expense categories are calculated based on some percentage of income. Some percentages vary as income varies. Divorce and retirement have the biggest effect on finances.

You can buy a house above \$75,000 (about a \$22,000 salary is required). You can sell it and buy another and equity adjustments will be made. Or you can just sell it because you need cash. However, there must be sufficient income and at least \$5,000 in the bank for first time buyers. Cars will always require a \$1,000 cash payment for first time purchase (otherwise there are equity adjustments).

You can cash in your college fund and/or investments, too. Returning to school or a divorce will create a debt category (loan or alimony), which will be adjusted by annual payments until paid off in full. Watch your finances here!

Making changes to the budget or financial statement can be annoying. Well, what can I say? Ever fill out a tax form???