

## Lansing Youth Services Town Board Report February 2025

**The Sphero Sphere:** This brand-new program is based around using Sphero robots. This little robot has a plethora of capabilities and students are loving exploring what they can do with them. Day one consisted of learning how the robot responds to input from an iPod used to control them. The spheres can be driven using a joystick or steering wheel option, like a golf club to swing, or like a foot for soccer simulation. There was a distance putting contest to close out the first day. The second day, participants got to dive deeper, playing a three-hole golf course, navigating an obstacle course, and started to use the “drag and drop” programming options. The next program days will increase with complexities like programming the Sphero to navigate a path and drawing a picture using paint the spheres can roll through. 9 youth served.

**Outdoor Adventure:** Outdoor Adventure is now taking place in the nature center behind the high school. The first day provided enough snow to go sledding, a highly popular activity and rather rare as most of the snow blows off the “good” sledding hill. The group has learned a lot about winter preparedness and the value of layering during physical activity in colder weather. This group is particularly interested in ways to hide yourself and stalk their friends so they have played camouflage and a version of capture the flag, where they would track their opponents using the little snow cover to their advantage. This group also values a fire as warming up around the flames and cooking snacks always provides a great time together. One student brought in a special treat for the group, a flame color changing packet that displayed all kinds of colors, making the fire even more mesmerizing than they already are. 10 youth served.

**Dungeons and Dragons:** The ever-popular Dungeons and Dragons has finally returned, and students are loving it. The group has two Dungeon Masters leading the groups development and characters. Both high school assistants have been doing a great job with answering questions and guiding the newer players, while allowing those with more experience the chance to dive deeper into their character’s qualities and special abilities, including accents, character traits that will guide how they will respond in certain situations, even down to what one thing their character will always have in their pocket. The group is split according to experience and are poised for a great adventure. 12 youth served.

**Mini-to-Major Olympics:** This program has started with lots of small, non-traditional competitions and will grow to larger competitions outdoors, like skiing (if snow allows). Indoors, the group has competed in candy curling, tic-tac-toe tournament, a rock paper scissors “conga” line, the invisible chair, blind snowball scoop, and the daily Snakes in the Grass game. Matchbox racing, tissue snowball fights, paper airplane, and paper football are right around the corner. This program will be leading up to our annual RYS Winter Olympics, which will be a one-day event in Brooktondale, and in combination with 4 other municipalities to meet for a day of teambuilding and some friendly competition where a nice lunch awards and prizes will be provided by RYS. 11 youth served

**Youth Employment:** This year has started out busy for our youth employees. There are four teens assisting the Lansing Recreation Department’s ice-skating program as chaperones at The Rink, two are assisting as Dungeon Masters in the Lansing Youth Services program, five teens are working at the Lansing Public Library, and one with the Lansing High School Library. In all areas, students are learning about customer service, communication, and workplace professionalism.