

**Lansing Youth Services
Town Board Report
March 2024**

Mini Olympics: The group continued their friendly competition and created some of their own competitions. The final day of the program included a blind folded cotton ball scooping game, which was extremely entertaining to witness! The “Slap Wrestling” competition involved trying to disrupt the challenger’s balance by only touching the palms of their hands. As simple as this activity sounds, an amazing amount of strategy goes into this game. A group game of cooperation where the goal is to break their own speed record for everyone touching a ball, in the same order. This competition produced some natural leaders and allowed time for everyone to give their ideas and input. This program will transition to “Party Planners” and prepare for the LYS Family Dinner. **9 youth served.**

Outdoor Adventure-Winter Edition: Outdoor Adventure’s current group is still all about woodland games, many of which they have created themselves. Camouflage is still popular, and they find great joy in finding the instructor as fast as they can. Unfortunately, the snow never arrived, and we were not able to go sledding or skiing, but those are still options for the next round if we get some good ground cover. The group made daily fires, which they cooked over, and made progress on their coal burned spoons! Our new youth employee continued to shine and created great connections with some of the new 6th graders in the program. The unseasonably warm weather contributed to the desire to play woodland games, and the mud provided some good raccoon and fox tracking opportunities. Next round of Outdoor Adventure will be based back at Salmon Creek, their favorite place. **11 youth served.**

Train Your Brain: Train Your Brain continued with many popular games like Rubick’s Cube, Blockus, Bananagrams and Trivial Pursuit. A pair of students successfully figured out the twisted metal puzzle, which they had been trying to conquer since the first day. This program will transition to “Science Explorers”, with field trips, and some combined days for presenters with the Lansing Middle School Science Club. **9 youth served.**

Fun with Food: Fun with Food participants eagerly awaited the formation of their rock candy, it took longer than anticipated for the crystals to form, it was well worth the wait. The results varied greatly, but everyone ended up with tasty crystals to enjoy. The group also made cake pops from Funfetti cake, and the different shapes students made were varied and creative, complete with chocolate decor. Our youth employees in this program continued to do very well, they took on some prep roles and made the icing for the final two days. The final day we made candy mosaic art. Some of the creations included people, characters, an American flag, and a gumball machine. There will be another round of Fun with Food next, due to high demand. **10 youth served.**

Special programs over February Break:

Gaming Central: This group headed to the Brooktondale Community Center where LYS combined with Groton, Danby, and the Joint Youth Commission (JYC) youth. The day was filled with board games, Dungeons and Dragons, Magic the Gathering, and even some outdoor games. Witnessing new relationships form with youth of other municipalities is always a highlight!

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2024 RYS Winter Olympics: Again, taking place at the Brooktondale Community Center, LYS students combined with youth from Groton, Dryden, Danby, JYC, and students from the 4-H Urban Outreach program. The morning was filled with competitions such as tug of war, human foosball, wacky animal relay races, egg on a spoon relay, and they created their team flag to fly throughout the day. A great lunch was provided, and the afternoon had an awesome obstacle course and more team games. Closing ceremonies were led by our supervising team, complete with certificates and “RYS Olympics” t-shirts for students to take home.

Youth Employment: Youth Employees are still very busy assisting with LYS programs, chaperoning with the Town Recreation department’s Ice-Skating program, assisting teachers at the high school, and working at the Lansing Public Library. The schedules are changing rapidly due to spring sports and the High School play practice demands, but there are two new employees working on their paperwork, interviews will soon be scheduled. The two new applicants are interested in working with LYS programs, both of whom are ideal candidates for the program. Two other brand-new youth have also just initiated the process to work and are interested in being a Dungeon Master and Library assistant. **14 youth served.**