

## **Lansing Youth Services Town Board Report September 2025**

**Lake Life:** Lake Life kicked off our Summer Skies with a super busy week. This program was combined with youth from Newfield and the Joint Youth Commission. Daily activities included landscape art, fishing, swimming, birding, kayaking, basketball, and even a trip on the Floating Classroom! The group had regular conversations about lake health, stream health, bird migration and the importance of Myers Point in monitoring these systems. The kayaks were used daily and provided good opportunities to explore around both points. 13 youth served.

**Cardboard Boat Building:** Cardboard Boat Building never disappoints, and experiences are fresh every year. Using boats from the marina as inspiration, students made/built cardboard boats to test float on the final day. The group learned a lot about problem solving after testing their model boats and the results were amazing! While several boats failed, the students had lots of fun! One boat filled with supports, held three people! 11 youth served.

**Iron Chef:** Iron chef returned with summer with a lot of practice at Myers Park before heading to the 4-H Fair to compete in Jr. Iron Chef. The group made banana pancakes, omelets, and quesadillas. The competition went well with one Lansing team winning! This year had challenging “mystery” ingredients, cilantro and Spam. When the group wasn’t competing, they learned to make friction fires, cooked hot dogs and s’mores, and made doughnuts on the fire! 10 youth served.

**RYS Summer Olympics:** Back for a second year, six municipalities gathered together for lots of teambuilding and friendly competitions. Students completed a “circuit” of team building activities, and competed in a scavenger hunt, basketball, archery, ultimate frisbee and more. Swimming in the afternoons to cool down was appreciated, and participants loved the daily catered lunches! 10 youth served.

**Sky’s The Limit:** This every popular program was action packed. The week kicked off with a visit to the Cornell Spacecraft and Planetary Imaging Facility (SPIF) for a tour of how light is used to determine what elements are on other planets. The group also visited the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for bird watching, exploring the exhibits, and a special tour of the Ithaca International Airport. The group also visited the National Soaring Museum where they learned about the history of flight and “Sail Planes”, then it was off to Tanglewood Nature preserve to see animals and feed/observe the fish and turtles. The final day was “launch day” for rockets! 10 youth served.

**Get Lost!:** With this program focusing on “lost proofing” and survival skills, Hammond Hill State Forest provided ample opportunities to test a lot of these skills. The group practiced navigation off trail, how to locate a natural spring, how to make a sun compass, the importance of always being aware of your surroundings to navigate back to your starting point, what to do if you really are lost, and safety tips for being in the wilderness. On the final day, one student caught a trout (that was in a drying up pool) and cooked it on the campfire! A first for this program! 10 youth served.

**Youth Employment:** Youth employees were super busy this summer! Several worked with our Lansing Youth Services Summer Skies programs, which provided a full work day experience, many of whom this was their first exposure to longer days. Four assisted with the Rural Youth Services Summer Olympics, where they were critical in helping the week go super

smoothly. Youth Employees at the Lansing Library also continued their work and feedback given was that they were great at helping each other, and even coordinated the covering of most of their shifts. One new eighth grader (now in high school), who has been eager to work, will begin as a Lansing Youth Services assistant this fall.