

Lansing Youth Services Town Board Report June 2026

Townie Tours

Mondays, 5/4 - 6/15 Enrollment: 10, Males: 10, Females: 0 Average Daily Attendance: 9.
Program Days: 3 Life Skills: Wise use of Resources, Concern for Others

“Townie Tours” is a new, field trip-based program, students travel each week to local destinations to learn about the great resources that are available in Tompkins County. The Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and Cayuga Shores Preserve both provided opportunities to teach youth the etiquette of sharing space with others in public. During the trip to Lansing Pizzeria, to learn how a local business operates and what factors they need to be aware of, students asked questions, learned how the clientele changes between summer and winter, and how to manage ingredients.

Outdoor Adventure

Tuesdays, 5/5 - 6/16 Enrollment: 13, Males: 13, Females: 0 Average Daily Attendance: 11
Program days: 2 Life Skills: Personal Safety, Problem Solving

This round of Outdoor Adventure has been based around fire making and cooking skills. As a few participants have been in this program before, they have taken the reins on making each fire and safely moving coals and a griddle for cooking. Knife safety has also been covered as they carved templates for apple pie cups. A few of the first cups came out a little off, so as they handed off their template to the next person, they would give advice like “don’t add too much oil or make sure it is evenly spread out so it cooks evenly. One student’s apple pie cup kept falling off, so a “veteran” worked with him on a solution- cooking it like a pizza on the griddle.

Nature’s Art: Fun with Flora and Fauna

Wednesdays, 5/6 - 6/17 Enrollment: 6, Males: 4, Females: 2 Average Daily Attendance: 6
Program days: 4 Life Skills: Learning to Learn, Social Skills

Nature’s Art is back, using Nick Neddo’s book as a guideline. Using only natural elements, students have learned how to make artist quality charcoal in a fire, how to turn them into a charcoal pen with pithy or split wood, make their own paint using ground stone, or flowers and mixing with egg yolk. They also learned how to make a variety of paintbrushes using grape vine, pine needles, flowers, and carved sticks. Because the options for art are so vast in the forest, students work together to talk about what works well and what is trickier.

Digital Photography

Thursdays, 5/7 - 6/18 Enrollment: 8, Males: 4, Females: 4 Average Daily Attendance: 7
Program days: 3 Life Skills: Marketable skills, Sharing

Digital Photography opens the world of photography and nature observation to participants. While half of the students are using their own camera, the other half are using Lansing Youth Services and Rural Youth Services cameras. Each week a new student gets to try the DSLR or share it for the day. Participants are given weekly challenges to photograph; objects, colors, themes, telling a story with a Lego figure, or things in nature. These marketable skills could pave the way for a career, such as a past participant who is now studying journalism and editor of his college's newspaper. Shadow photography is the next challenge!

Lunch Times

Several days per week are spent in the lunchroom interacting with as many tables of students as possible. Sometimes recruiting for upcoming, ongoing, or summer programs, or checking in with students about programs for that day or reminding them of important information for upcoming programs. Time is also spent networking, playing 4 square, basketball, soccer and inside, games like the counting game, mafia, and lots of brainteasers/ and riddles. Becoming a familiar face to those students who have not done Lansing Youth Service programs, often resulting in new attendees!

Lansing Youth Employment

The youth employee with Lansing Youth Services has been showing big strides in maturity and understanding of the position. He has moved away from being competitive with participants and now engages students, encouraging other students to participate in whatever game is being played. Very cool to witness! The Lansing Public Library Employees are finishing the year strong and looking forward to summer. Many students would like full time work, with several pursuing outside employment opportunities like Scoops, Wegmans, and The Sciencenter.

Fishing Derby

This Year's Lansing Youth Services Fishing Derby is taking place on 6/20/26 from 7:30 to 11:00am. All are welcome to join us! Please spread the word!

Lansing 250 Celebration

Lansing Youth Services will also be running games at the Lansing 250 celebration the week before on 6/13, come check out the fun!

Lansing Summer Skies

Lake Life

Games in the Grass

Sunshine Crafts

Sky's The Limit

Iron Chef

Cardboard Boat Building

Grow Your Own Way

DIY Summer Edition