

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

Digital Photography: Participants in Digital Photography learned multiple photography techniques and strategies to challenge their thinking about the composition of photos. Youth learned how to use photographs to express feelings, textures and contrast. This allowed for more thoughtful process when taking photos. Youth took their time and really focused on what they want to express. The group loved taking photos of nature, and each other. They got to stage scenes, explore different angles of the same object and take silly photos. 8 youth served.

Outdoor Adventure: Students in Outdoor Adventure have been busy building shelters and cooking. One of their favorite games, Camouflage, became popular and the group got really creative with altering their look to blend into the environment. One of our 6th graders participates in reenactments and is very interested in military history. He would bring and share some of the military regalia he collected, and youth discovered that it's very good gear for the game of camouflage. This program had a large wait list and will be operating again so everyone can get in on the fun. 12 youth served.

The Art Factory: This program continues all fall as it leads up to the Annual Lansing Artisan Fair. Participants are working on waterless snow globes, pinch pots for miniature succulents, and making small leather pouches. Budgeting has been a weekly discussion and youth have learned to plan what they want to make so they will stay within the confines of each week's budget for materials. The next group will continue these projects and add their own style and creativity to them. They will also get to work with resin, making pendants and tabletop decorations. This group will also be doing the shopping for the family sponsored by the Salvation Army. 13 youth served.

Delicious Desserts: This program is all about desserts. Youth made chocolate chip cookies, both traditional and gluten free. The youth were surprised that they all liked the gluten free cookies better. Participants also made an indoor version of campfire apple pie. One student was not so keen on this dessert but did make his own and did end up liking it, a lot, opening his eyes to be willing to try new things. Due to this program's popularity and long wait list, it is being offered again so all students who are interested have the chance to participate. 10 youth served.

Youth Employment: The youth employees have been assisting in all Lansing Youth Services afterschool programs, allowing lots of practice managing a group of students, helping prepare and distribute materials and teaching participants how to properly wash dishes. Youth employees have shown a lot of growth in their supervision skills, particularly listening, especially when involved with a project. Some employees have been assisting with the middle school's musical, in their tech department and helping middle schoolers with the logistics behind the scenes. We still have our Lansing Public Library team going strong, with one new employee starting after she is done assisting with the middle school musical. The assistant at the high school library has started and has been very helpful, per feedback from the librarian. He has been going through their catalogue of outdated books, organizing and helping with backlogged tasks. 10 youth served.