

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

Cardboard Boat Builders: Cardboard boat builders were back for another summer of fun. This year Lansing youth joined up with Danby youth for a week of creativity and critical thinking. Youth used boats from the marina as inspiration for their models and final boats. After testing models, they broke into teams and designed and constructed cardboard boats. The boats were then tested by floating them in the shallows near Myers point while attached by rope to an instructor and wearing life jackets. This summer all the boats floated for at least a few minutes, with some floating for the max time of 10 min and many of which could have floated for much longer. Previous participants shared ideas about their successes and failures from the past year to help each other be successful. Seeing all boats float was a triumph in everyone's eyes. 9 youth served.

Lake Life: This program was all about discovering Cayuga Lake. Youth played lots of games by the shore, went swimming and hiked Salmon Creek. Youth created art projects based around natural landscapes and using natural materials. Through this combined program with Rural Youth Services programs from Danby, Joint Youth Commission and Newfield, there were many new youths who got to know each other and connect well though common interest. The group even got to go fishing several times and cook up a small mouth bass that they caught. 8 youth served.

Dungeons and Dragons Adventures: In combination with Danby Youth Services, the Joint Youth Commission and Newfield Youth Services, youth spent the week playing games based all around Dungeons and Dragons. The group made their own characters, made drawings of their characters and learned basic leather work to make their own dice bags. The campaigns were both student and instructor led, allowing some students who were interested in becoming Dungeon Masters to practice their skills. 6 youth served.

Iron Chef: Outdoor cooking was the focus of this program, the youth got to try a range of cooking methods. Lansing Youth Services joined up with Dryden Youth Services where cooking over coals and an outdoor skillet was the first skills developed, followed by cooking on a campfire where they made donuts in the Dutch oven. The group made banana pancakes that were amazing, although rather sweet, they turned out to be more of a dessert pancake with the amount of chocolate chips added to the recipe. The final two days took place at the Tompkins County 4-H Youth Fair where youth participated in the Junior Iron Chef competition. 9 youth served.

RYS Summer Olympics: This year's summer RYS Olympics was a new event including five other municipalities and youth from almost all corners of Tompkins County. Each day there was a series of Olympic themed competitions, with each team consisting of students from each municipality. Students competed in archery, ultimate frisbee, obstacle courses, scavenger hunts, kayak racing, teambuilding activities where they created their own countries and made their own team flags, and we even had an Olympic torch! Participants received custom water bottles and

T-shirts for being a part of the event. Special thank you to Tompkins County Youth Services and New York State Sports Funding for making the program possible. 12 youth served.

Get Lost: In this program with Dryden Youth Services, we travelled by way of Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County 4-H van to Hammond Hill State Forest. The group made a portable sun compass, learned about off trail navigation, “lost proofing” using several methods like the story trail and using landmarks for navigating. At the home base a clay deposit provided a great resource for students to try building and firing their own small pots. This group was particularly interested in how to create a dam like a beaver, so spent time practicing their own in a low flowing creek. Animal observation and behavior was also a topic of interest, finding and following deer and fox tracks. 7 youth served.

Sky's The Limit: Sky's The Limit was all about flight, whether it be birds or humans. The group went to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for a tour, explored the Sciencenter, had a tour of the emergency services at the Ithaca Tompkins International Airport. The group also went to Cornell Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility, for a tour of the solar system with the most recent images from spacecrafts. Light identification was also explored, helping students understand how scientists know what other planets are comprised of, using light. The group also went to the National Soaring Museum for a tour, unfortunately the sky ceiling was too low for them to fly, so just touring the museum and up-close looks at gliders were the main components. The group also did some habitat restoration with members of the Cayuga Bird Club removing the invasive Privet from areas birds frequent. On the final day, youth made their own rockets, and with the weather being very good, they made about 50 launches, the most I have ever seen in this program. 7 youth served.

Youth Employment: Two teens in the Youth Employment program continued their placements throughout the summer assisting the Lansing Youth Services programs. They both did a phenomenal job and growth was visible from the start of the summer to the end. Their confidence, leadership and relationship building were all very prevalent. Teen helpers were also still working hard at the Lansing Community Library. 5 youth served.