

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

**Science Explorers:** Science Explorers began with exploring duct tape, surface area, and the physics of how to support the body weight of participants. The group worked in teams and strategized on how they would support one team members weight against a wall. One group had their teammate stay suspended for just under 30 seconds, and immediately wanted to try again as they saw where the weakest points were. Participants then made popsicle stick bridges, and tested to see how much weight they could hold, with the most weight being 52 pounds! It could have held more but ran out of weights! The final day will be using programmable robotic spheres called Spheros. These have many ways to use them and the group is excited to explore. 7 youth served.

**Outdoor Adventure:** Participants in Outdoor Adventure have transitioned to the Nature Center behind the high school as the cooler weather arrives. This group has been particularly excited about woodland games. Playing the game camouflage and with the foliage now gone, they have honed their skills of blending into the environment and remaining still, which is very helpful when observing wildlife. Discussions have revolved around animal behavior, observation, and a renewed respect for natural world. With this practice and new understanding, it has made it possible to encounter the “resident doe” that has been seen on several occasions, specifically by practicing their “fox walking”, and being mindful of how their presence effects wildlife behavior. Participants have also taught each other their own games based around hiding and working together through tag games. 10 youth served.

**The Art Factory:** Students have been working hard and are feeling ready for the Annual Lansing Artisan Fair. The waterless snow globes, pinch pots for miniature succulents, and leather change pouches are looking great and ready for the event. Evident every year, some students are a little apprehensive about the event, talking to members of the public, wanting to make sure they can manage the inventory and transactions for their work. This is typically alleviated quickly once they serve a few customers and turns to excitement and pride of their work. The proceeds will fund a celebration for all participants who have been a part of the program since the beginning of the school year. This group will also be doing the shopping for the family sponsored by the Salvation Army on 12/11, a day that past participants are very excited about and have told the “first timers” how cool it is to do the shopping and think about how they are helping a family in need. 8 youth served.

**Delicious Desserts:** This popular program returned with all new faces in the program. This group made thumbprint cookies, and due to a large donation of apples, a version of campfire apple crisp, complete with vanilla ice cream. The apple crisp preparation required a lot more dicing of the apples, so knife safety took precedent. There was much less experience around this skill, so the teen employee worked very hard to tackle instructing this skill, doing a phenomenal job! Previous participants had spread the word about the delicious “McFlurries”, and was requested to repeat, but this time with more chocolate options (Oreos and M&M’s). One difference this round was that youth made presentation touches like garnishing with crushed or whole Oreos. To wrap up the program, the group will make lots of chocolate chip cookies to bring home to their families. 10 youth served.

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**Youth Employment:** The youth employees have continued to assist in all Lansing Youth Services afterschool programs, allowing lots of practice managing a group of students, helping prepare and distribute materials, and teaching participants kitchen safety and transferrable skills. I have seen continued growth in their supervision skills, group management, and recognizing situations when a group game is appropriate, which has become a comfortable time for the teen assistant to take initiative and lead the group. We still have our Lansing Public Library team going strong, with one new employee starting as her middle school musical obligations have been fulfilled. The assistant at the high school library is continuing his hard work to help with backlogged tasks. He loves the job and it seems to have provided positive and productive as he works almost daily after school. 10 youth served.