

## Lansing Youth Services Town Board Report March 2025

**Robust Robots:** This new program is designed around programmable robots. Two different robots are being used to discover and have fun with the world of programming and planning. The Sphero robots are great practice for drag and drop programming, where the youth input planned movements to follow through challenge courses, land on certain destinations, race each other, and even have “battles”. The new robots are called Ozobots, which will follow paths and commands drawn on paper using different colors. Some students like the aspect of drawing pictures or writing out words for the robots to navigate through. “Robot Painting” is up next! 9 youth served.

**Outdoor Adventure:** Outdoor Adventure has made its way back to Salmon Creek as the weather shifts. The winter atmosphere is very different along the Creekside and the group loved to play with the ice and access areas that are usually out of reach. The first day consisted of lots of fossil hunting and excavation, panning for precious stones, and working on their rock skipping skills. Some participants can’t wait to get started on their shelters again while some new students are excited to learn and start theirs. There has been a lot of teamwork while moving large chunks of ice and helping each other find good layers of shale to find fossils. One participant is able to identify most fossils and has become an honorary apprentice of Outdoor Adventure! 12 youth served.

**Gaming Creation:** This new program is based on the popular Game On program. Participants have extensive experience playing board and tabletop games that were designed by other people, now it’s their turn to be the creators! Participants will be designing and playing their own board or tabletop games to play with their peers. They will be making their own game boards, game pieces and rules. Participants can use a range of crafts to create their games, including clay, paint, yarn, cardboard, and even a 3-D printer! 10 youth served.

**Iron Chef-Outdoor Edition:** Iron Chef is always popular and usually in the classroom kitchen. This version takes it outside to learn to cook over a campfire, grill, skillet, and solar ovens. Participants will be partaking in cooking competitions that will be judged by a third party each week. In addition, the group will be making their own solar ovens to make desserts and eventually take their ovens to use at home! Although the competitive element is present, the focus will be on mastering a method that they will be comfortable using to share with their families. 10 youth served.

**Youth Employment:** Youth employees have been busy so far this year. Our assistance with the Ice-Skating Program is coming to a close, with some returning to assist with the Lansing Youth Services after school programming. We have two new applicants that are perfect candidates and will learn a lot while working with LYS programs. Our Library team at the Lansing Public Library and the High School Library is still doing well. As the older teens are getting ready to graduate, recruiting for their replacements is ongoing. Youth Employment meetings will be focused around their professional development, starting on communication skills with their supervisors and coworkers and etiquette surrounding a workplace environment.