

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

Party Planners: Party Planners has been working hard at learning what planning goes into hosting a celebration or public event. The group has learned kitchen safety and sanitary practices that are in place for cooking for a large group of people. The group prepared all the baked ziti for the Lansing Youth Services Family Dinner which took place on May 3rd. Participants also made posters to highlight programs they have been involved in, which were hung around the dinner venue. On the day of the dinner, participants finished their preparations by making salad and garlic bread. They also set up and decorated the venue, and as the event began they served their families the dinner they made! 11 youth served. Special thank you to the Lansing United Methodist Church for the amazing venue, the Lansing Youth Commission for the support, the youth for all of their hard work and all of their families for joining us at this wonderful event.

Outdoor Adventure: Outdoor Adventure has finally returned to their beloved Salmon Creek! The group has gotten a good understanding and practice in making a teepee style fire, where they cooked lots of S'mores, hot dogs with all the toppings and other yummy foods. This group got very interested in panning for semi-precious stones in the gravel behind large boulders. Using a gold pan that was 3-D printed by our youth employee as well as a sluice box that was built and printed by him. The group was also able to rescue two White Sucker fish that were stranded in small pools as the water level dropped. 12 youth served.

Fun With Food II: Fun With Food participants recently made veggie villages, rock candy, and art using skittles and other candy. The veggie villages were quite different this round and many of the villages included more people/characters in their scenes. It took on a live action theme as students explained their projects to their peers. The rock candy turned out great with lots of crystals and beautiful formations. When making art with skittles, the group was amazed when watching their plates come alive and change into all kinds of patterns and shapes. Although there were some new candies that were added to test out, skittles seemed to reign and the best for vivid colors and creating patterns. 10 youth served.

Science Explorers: This program was busy! A trip to the Museum of the Earth started the program off strong and sparked lots of interest in fossils, which resulted in a lot of fossil searching during future trips. The trip to Bell Station Preserve was a huge hit, and it was apparent that this beautiful place is not well known, as only one student had been there or heard of it. After the first visit, it was requested to head back to the preserve on another day. The group got to skip lots of rocks, see a vast number of Trout Lilies and walk through a field of Trillium. It was early in the season, so only a few flowers were blooming. The first gorge and waterfall were a hot spot for these plants, and some prime fossil hunting along the stream. SPIF (Spacecraft and Planetary Imaging Facility), visited for a presentation where Lansing Youth Services youth combined with the Lansing Middle School Science Club. It was an amazing presentation on visible and non-visible light and how it is used to analyze a planet's elements from a faraway distance. Youth even got to make comets using dry ice! 9 youth served.

Spring break Montezuma trip: This trip went surprisingly well as there was mostly rain for the day. The group stopped at Salt Point and saw just a handful of birds. Mostly small songbirds, but there was also a Kingfisher, Hooded Merganser and of course, Osprey. A stop at the Bald Eagle Nest in Aurora was a hit where the Bald Eagle seemed to be posing for pictures and she lay on her eggs, looking directly at the group for the majority of the time. At Montezuma, there were lots of ducks, some too far

away to identify, but there were Ring Necked Ducks, a flock of Sandhill Cranes that landed right in front of the visitor's center, a couple of juvenile and adult Bald Eagles, and the amazing site of a Great Blue Heron Rookery! 9 youth served.

Youth Employment: With continued schedule changes for spring sports and other extracurricular activities, Lansing Youth Services Program Assistants are still going strong with the after-school programs. Of the three assistants, one has been going above and beyond, bringing in projects of their own hobbies and passions. Our Lansing Public Library employees have been doing fantastic. They have a new employee which just finished their training. We also have a new position at the Lansing High School Library and the youth placement is just about to start. Two youth assisted at the Lansing Youth Services Family Dinner, gaining experience in event planning and management. 12 youth served.