

Lansing Youth Services December 2025 Report

Game On! Mondays, 11/3 – 12/15 Life Skills: Planning/ Organizing, Teamwork

Game on is back in action with very busy participants. The program has been focused around board games like chess, checkers, pickup sticks, many versions of Uno, Rummikub. One group has even been creating their own board game with some very intricate rules and characters. Students get to play these games while conversing and enjoying each other's company, away from screens. The classic game of pickup sticks has become very popular, resulting in tournament style play with their competitive instructor challenging the group.

Outdoor Adventure: Base Camp Tuesdays, 11/4 – 12/16 Life Skills: Learning to Learn, Critical Thinking

This rendition of Outdoor Adventure is focused on learning camping skills. With a winter camping trip in the works, the group has been talking a lot about preparedness and what it looks like to winter camp, how to dress, stay dry, safe travel over snowy conditions and making fire in these conditions. Campfire cooking and snow shelters are up next to finish out this round and provide options for the upcoming trip. Time is allowed for participants to play their game of "capture the flag", which is inspired by one of our veteran participants who presents a different scenario each week that is based on historical battles.

The Art Factory Wednesdays, 11/5 – 12/17 Life Skills: Learning to Learn, Marketable Skills

Participants completed crafts to sell at the Lansing Artisan Fair. Youth were presented with the finances of the materials and worked through appropriate pricing for the crafts they created. Participants completed a "quality control" check to make sure what was made was presentable. At the Fair, we had four students attend the event to sell their goods, doing a wonderful job talking to patrons and promoting their products. This year was the first year selling completely out of a product- the hot coco reindeer! It also resulted in the most profitable year, which will fund their end of year party. The group will also go shopping for gifts for a family sponsored by the Salvation Army so they have gifts and meals for the holiday season.

Mad Science Thursdays, 11/6 – 12/18 Life Skills: Teamwork, Learning to Learn

Mad Science has returned! Although schedules have affected the amount of program days, they have been busy! The most popular activity has been matchstick tip rockets. The first day resulted in lots of failed rockets, so the group wanted to try again, and the second day saw lots of mini rockets soaring with a satisfying smoke trail behind their rockets, with some traveling about 30 feet! Students also LOVED the teambuilding activity of duct taping a teammate to the wall to see how long they would stay suspended. Students are now working on popsicle stick bridges and will test them to see how much weight they can hold!

Youth Employment

Youth Employees have been continuing to assist with two Lansing Youth Services programs, both excelling in leadership and taking initiative. They are gaining skills that will most definitely carry over to their future workplaces. Our team at the Lansing Public Library has stayed strong and feedback has shown they are growing professionally, with a very positive mentor that works at the Library and provides great guidance to the youth employees. In the new year, additional placements are anticipated in the elementary and high schools!