

Lansing Youth Services
Town Board Report
December 2023

Outdoor Adventure: Outdoor Adventure took place at both the Nature Center and at Salmon Creek. Salmon Creek provided a great space for shelter making and practicing working together. Several students made group shelters that could fit their entire team inside. Youth also learned how to responsibly make cooking fires. Each fire consisted of treats like traditional smores, cinnamon pythons, hot chocolate, and good old fashioned hot dogs. Students took the lead each week in starting the fire using their own designs. The game Camouflage has taken on a huge revival, fueled by the time change, the group loves to play towards the end of program as dusk settles in, adding a very challenging aspect to the game. This round has had several new youth who have adjusted well to the changing weather conditions and learned about the importance of dressing appropriately for various weather conditions. **14 youth served.**

Dungeons and Dragons: This program is always filled with energy and excitement! The group had a returning Dungeon Master, a high school youth employee who has evolved into a tremendous leader, with great techniques to hold the group's attention, keeping them focused and driven towards their campaign. Students were even able to fit in a game of Honey Heist, which kept all of their role playing game skill levels deeply involved. Students now have many more resources with updated player manuals and guides to provide a more comprehensive experience for beginners through very experienced players. The new, fun colored dice are also a hit! One new student with a complicated background is starting to warm up to the groups they have become more involved and have shown a lot of growth in trust and feeling safe while in Lansing Youth Services programs. **14 youth served.**

Crafter's Corner: Crafter's Corner had a strong finish leading up to the Lansing Artisan Fair. This year's projects were well thought out by participants, and their work ethic to complete each one was very evident. The group really enjoyed crafting holiday cards, survival bracelets, friendship bracelets, and leather keychains. The variety of projects catered well to everyone's skillsets and passions. This year was one of the most profitable for the group and will fund a big celebration party for the group. While attending the event, youth received lots of praise from members of the public, including lots of praise for the Lansing Youth Services programs that participants are able to be a part of. The second part of the program youth will shop for gifts for a local family in need. This experience is very much a selfless learning experience, and participants are always in awe when they are able to see the operation that the Salvation Army operates and what they are contributing to. Heartwarming on many levels. Special thank you to our anonymous donor who sponsors this portion of the program. **14 youth served.**

Iron Chef: This round of the group has worked a lot on kitchen safety and good hygiene practices, almost as if preparing to cook in a commercial kitchen. Pizzas are always a hit, and their creativity is inspiring for new recipes, particularly with pesto, veggies, and pepperoni. Farm fresh eggs from Travis' chickens will be the base for dishes in the final program days. **11 youth served.**

Youth Employment: Youth employees are finishing the year focused on assisting at the middle and high schools. Lansing Youth Services assistants are back in full swing, including a brand new assistant for Outdoor Adventure. The returning assistants are helping in all other programs, staying very busy practicing their classroom management skills. Youth are getting back to assisting teachers at the high school, honing their knowledge of what hard work teachers do on a daily basis and how to best help in preparations for projects and activities. January will see 4 additional employees assisting the Lansing Recreation Ice Skating program. Our future workforce is gaining employable skills and confidence! **14 youth served.**

Visit ccetompkins.org/4h/rys/lansing for more information and to sign up for programs.