

2023

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Creating Youth Pathways to Employment!

The 2023 Lake County Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) wrapped up another exciting summer with 138 high school students having gained meaningful work experience while earning a paycheck. Funded by the Lake County Board, the program offers students a paid, part-time work experience. For most student workers, this represents their first job. 138 students were placed at 24 sites, including a mix of nonprofit organizations, local municipalities, Lake County government, and private or community-based organizations throughout Lake County. Students worked in various areas during this six-week program, including office support, day camp programs, and indoor/outdoor maintenance. Student workers earned \$11 per hour for 20-25 hours per week.



138

Student
Workers



24

Worksites



14

Communities

Lake County Government as a Worksite



Trayvon B. with the Lake County Clerk's Office

Lake County government hosted nine student workers at various departments, including Communications, the County Clerk, and the Treasurer's office. The student workers gained hands-on experience assisting residents while learning about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

Alex Carr, Deputy Communications Officer, explained that two student workers were placed at the main reception desk at the county building, where they directed members of the public where to go in the 10-story building. He said the student workers "went above and beyond by walking visitors to their assigned courtrooms, translating information for Spanish-speaking residents, explaining to visitors how to get their parking tickets validated, and much more."

Student workers at the Lake County Treasurer's office learned clerical skills and provided customer service and support during the busy property tax season. Griselda Trujillo, Operations Manager, shared that she was grateful for this partnership opportunity and believes the student workers learned essential skills for the future.

Student workers placed at the Lake County Clerk's office worked on tasks relevant to recording and election services. Sol Cabuchuela, Chief Deputy of Civic Engagement and External Affairs, says the tasks helped the students sharpen their organizational, teamwork, and time management skills. She added that the summer work experience provided the students with time to discuss their future goals and plans on how to reach their goals. She encourages other organizations to become worksites. "We look forward to working with students next year and hope more organizations participate in this amazing program."



Rosalind G. and Alex C. with Lake County Communications





Worksite Spotlight

Zion Township has partnered with Lake County's SYEP as a worksite for over 20 years. This year, 32 student workers were placed at worksites in the maintenance crew or at the Zion-Benton Public Library. Zion Township provides a holistic experience to their student workers that includes financial literacy, team building, leadership exercises, volunteer opportunities, and community projects to support the Zion Park District.

Annual 2023 High School Youth Summit



Lake County Workforce Development collaborated with the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, Waukegan Township, Coalition Legal, and College of Lake County to host the Annual 2023 High School Youth Summit, Creating Vision for Tomorrow. This year, 80 SYEP student workers attended and were provided with tools and resources related to financial literacy, healthy relationships, entrepreneurship, and more!

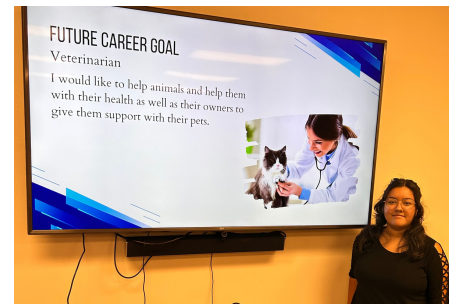
Youth Ambassador Program

This summer, Lake County Workforce Development offered a Youth Ambassador (YA) Program to empower young leaders to guide and mentor student workers. Youth Ambassadors had a unique position to impact their peers positively and make a difference in the lives of the students.

The first Youth Ambassador, Marly M., was placed at Mundelein High School, where she mentored SYEP student workers, providing support and guidance throughout the six-week program. She also participated in personal and professional activities focused on creating her resume and LinkedIn profile, networking, communications, and leadership skills. Her future career goal is to become a veterinarian.



From left: YA Program Coordinator Ashannti Ross, Youth Ambassador Marly M., and Program Manager Jennifer Everett



Closing Thoughts

Jennifer Everett, Program Manager, expressed, "Our worksite supervisors shared how impressed they were with student workers; they showed maturity, dedication, and creativity. More than ever, the students seemed to appreciate the opportunity to be in person at local worksites accomplishing various tasks and much-needed projects in the community."

Contact information

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Applications for student workers for next season will be available on the Job Center of Lake County website on March 2024. Visit lakecountyjobcenter.com.

@Job Center of Lake County IL

