Mad Science Spotlight and Boys & Girls Clubs Merging

October 2018

Spotlight
Mad Science of the Capital District

Mad Science, an organization promoting science and fun, offers preschool workshops, camps, after-school enrichment programming, and in-class workshops for youth that encourage them to pursue further interests in STEM. Mad Science is a franchise that has been in the Capital District for more than 23 years now! We spoke to the owner of Mad Science of the Capital District, Margaret Liberti-Wiegert, to learn more about her and the importance of science.

Margaret has been the owner for over 3 years now, but she started there as a part-time instructor. When she found out that the previous owner was selling, she felt as though something had to happen because the children loved it there so much. So, she bought the franchise to keep it open. Margaret has also been a chancellor's award recipient biology professor for nearly a decade, and a certified biology/chemistry adolescent education teacher. Margaret stated, "I believe in science, education, and hopefully opening students' eyes to all the greatness that science is and can be!" At Mad Science Margaret gets to work with a different age group (ages 3-14) than she had before, and she absolutely adores having a wide range of students to engage with and enjoy science with.

Mad Science specializes in hands-on science edu-entainment, which works to complete K-5 science standards. Also, Mad Science goes to your location, so no one has to worry about bussing their students to a different location. They are able to work with PTA/PTO groups, grant funds that a school currently has, directors of schools/after-school programs, and directors of youth services. Margaret added that Mad Science has nearly any science topic you could dream of - "if there is something specific a group is looking for, we can certainly help pinpoint what would be best for you!" Mad Science is also flexible to work with, provides educational materials, and engages instructors. Mad Science aims to educate and engage everyone involved. Margaret noted that they want everyone to learn and have fun.

STEM and STEAM have been hot topics for many years now. Mad Science aims to provide STEM and STEAM education that is hands-on, which research has shown enables students to grasp concepts and remember better. Educators used to focus on middle school aged students to become engaged with STEM, but Margaret told us that Mad Science has learned that the younger the students are, the more likely they're able to understand, grasp, and love science. Science is an ever growing and adapting field and upstate New York continues to boom with STEM-related degree programs and careers. Margaret hopes that Mad Science can spark interest in the younger ages and continue to grow the STEM field in Upstate.
When asked what her favorite part of her job was, Margaret responded, “hands down - working with the students.” Margaret is an educator and scientist at heart, so making sure that she can continue to work with students along with running the business keeps her heart in Mad Science!

**Resource**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany and Troy Merging**

It was announced this month that the Boys & Girls Club of Albany and Troy Boys & Girls Club are planning on merging. We spoke to Jimmy Bulmer, Director of Operations at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany, about what this merge means for the Capital Region.

Jimmy informed us that the Boys & Girls Clubs wish to build on the unique expertise and strengths of each other. The goal is to identify possible areas of cooperation, such as shared services and consolidation, in order to strengthen both organizations. This will allow them to impact the lives of more children and families. The time frame for this merging is set to happen in the next few months, and certainly by the end of this calendar year.

This merger connects to the Initiative of 2025 that was in the Boys & Girls Clubs’ press release as the Initiative’s mission is to serve more kids, more often. Combining the resources of the two clubs will create a new, larger not-for-profit. The new corporation, the *Boys and Girls Clubs of the Capital Area*, would be one of the region’s largest youth organizations. This new entity would explore opportunities to expand to neighboring cities that do not have Clubhouses, providing hundreds more youth access to low-cost, quality programming.

This merger will strengthen their programming by enhancing quality and increasing services, facilitating job creation, growing and strengthening training for staff, expanding donor reach, and modernizing facilities to meet 21st century needs.

**North Country Training Institute**

**REGISTER NOW!**

Where: Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, 194 U.S. Oval, Plattsburgh, NY  
When: Saturday, October 13, 10 AM to 5 PM  
Cost: $99  
Who: Front-line staff in school-age settings

What:

- **6 hours** of professional development in OCFS approved topic areas!  
- **Lunch provided!**  
- Lots of **Networking Opportunities!**  
- **Hands-on** workshops!

Join Erin Broderick and Timothy Fowler for a day of school-age training! The North Country Training Institute will cover topics relevant to school-age providers in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. This day-long event features four 90-minute sessions (a total of 6 hours of training):

- Guiding Positive Behaviors.  
- Games for Groups.  
- Developing an Active STEM Learning Environment.  
- Bookmaking.

Maximum enrollment is 40 participants, so don’t wait to register!

**Scholarship** funding to participate in this training may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit [www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu](http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu). You may also contact EIP at [eip@albany.edu](mailto:eip@albany.edu) or 800-295-9616.

To register via check or eip, email [timothy@networkforyouthsuccess.org](mailto:timothy@networkforyouthsuccess.org).
Register for the 2018 Rochester Regional Training Institute!
Saturday, November 10, 2018
Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester, NY 14623

REGISTER NOW!

High-Quality Professional Development
- Six OCFS training hours
- Variety of topics
- Appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children
- Networking opportunities
- Buffet lunch

For More Information:
Visit our Regional Institute Webpage

Scholarships
Scholarship funding to participate in this training may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu. You may also contact EIP at eip@albany.edu or 800-295-9616. If you have received an EIP, please sign it and mail it to the Network along with your registration.

For any questions or to register via check or EIP, please contact Erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

Now Accepting Proposals for the 2019 Annual Conference!
Friday, May 10, 2019 to Saturday, May 11, 2019
Saratoga Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs, NY

This event brings in over 200 afterschool professionals (administrators, executive directors, directors, teachers, and frontline staff) from across the state. We are accepting proposals in the following topics, but are also open to new and innovative ideas. The workshops are either 90 minutes or 30 minutes.

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM)
- Guiding Children's Behaviors
- Program Sustainability
- Program Quality Improvement
- Leadership Development for Professionals
- Family Engagement
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Arts
- Self-Care
- Movement

Submit Your Proposal Today!
All submissions are due by October 24, 2018. Selected presenters will be notified by November 30, 2018. Accepted presenters also receive free admission to the conference on the day of their presentation.

Feel free to share this RFP with your colleagues and friends!

The link to the RFP: http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/2019-conference-rfp/

More information on the event: http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/annual-conference/

To register as a participant:
Registration will begin in December!

If you have any questions, please contact Erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.
How does your afterschool program make a difference in the lives of young people?
Tell Us How!

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is interested in learning more about afterschool programs in your area to better inform its grant-making. The foundation has asked Grand Valley State University to conduct a survey of afterschool programs to better understand the afterschool landscape and where funding is most needed. Can you help? Taking the survey is easy and will only take about 15 minutes of your time!

What kinds of questions will be asked?

- What geography is served by your program(s)?
- Who are the youth your program(s) reaches?
- What is special and unique about the youth you currently serve?
- When are your programs offered?
- What are the activities and outcomes of your program(s)? What aspects of your work need more support?

How do I Participate?
Please take our survey at bit.ly/AfterschoolProgramSurvey. Your work is important, and we want your afterschool programs to be included!

Questions? Want a copy of the results? Contact Dr. Aaron Van Oosterhout, Research Manager, at (616) 331-9030 or vanoosaa@gvsu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Interested in advancing in the school-age field? Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Upcoming Events

10/1 - 1/15: Distance Learning SAC Credential II Prep Course
The Network offers an alternative way to gain and document skills to earn your SAC Credential if you don’t live near a Host Agency that offers face-to-face classes. SACC Prep II covers Skill Areas 8-14 and helps you prepare your Portfolio and Resource File as well as share, discuss, and learn from colleagues throughout the state about the value, purpose, and process of your work. For more information and to apply for the course, go to: http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/credential/distance-learning/

10/3: Aperture Edu- Session 2: Inform & Measure Results
Learn about the importance of starting with reliable SEL data, the different developmental approaches that incorporate SEL, and how to best inform teaching and measure the results. Topics covered include: MTSS, Universal Curricula, Intervention Strategies, Universal Screening, PBIS, Short and Long-term approaches to SEL, Connecting In-School with OOST.
To register, click here!

10/4: Summer Meals Matter: Improving Meal Quality and Incorporating Local Foods
October is National Farm to School Month, but there are opportunities to incorporate fresh, local foods into meals served all year – even during the summer! The quality of meals plays a key role in the success of summer meal programs. One way to improve the quality and appeal of the Summer
Nutrition Programs is to make local foods part of the meals and snacks served at sites. Join this call through the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) to learn from sponsors and program providers how sourcing locally can have a positive impact on programs, children, and the community. Click [here](https://www.frac.org) to register!

**10/6: Youth Development Institute 2018**

A full day of fun, inspiring, and FREE youth development workshops! Sign up for one of the following training tracks: 1) STEMastery, 2) Bringing SEL to Life, 3) Making All Activities Accessible for Students with Disabilities -Supporting Exceptional Youth In Program, 4) The Truth About Drugs, Creating a Drug Free Reality, 5) Literacy Learning Lab for OST Staff-Learning Through Doing. Lunch provided. [Click here to register.](https://www.rochesterymca.org) And for more information on the 2018 YDI, contact Jessica Kingsley, YMCA of Greater Rochester @ 585-784-3847 or [Jessica.kingsley@rochesterymca.org](mailto:Jessica.kingsley@rochesterymca.org).

**10/10: Aperture Edu- Session 3: Key Indicators & Their Connections to SEL**

Students that have a need for social-emotional instruction are 4.5X more likely to have a severe infraction this year. We know this is alarming, so our third session covers how social-emotional competence links to infractions as well as other key indicators like academic achievement and income-achievement gaps. Early Indicators and a proactive approach to addressing SEL skills can have lasting results in your buildings. Topics covered include: Universal Screening, Reducing Infractions and Referrals, Proactive Skill Building, High Quality Data. To register, click [here](https://www.frac.org).

**10/11: Youth Resource Fair**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Hudson Valley Community College are teaming up to support youth in care and promote their success. They are hosting a Youth Resource Fair to raise awareness among youth and their families of what supportive programs and resources there are and how to access them. Vendors will provide information and insights on child welfare system topics ranging from employment and career development to education, financial literacy, health and wellness, LGBTQ issues, mentoring, youth leadership, and voice and life skills. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to connect youth and young adults to vital programs and resources! Location and Time: Campus Center, Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburgh Ave Troy, NY 12180, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**10/11: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Supporting Good Nutrition**

In this Partnership for After School Education workshop, participants will review nutrition principles and discuss current eating behaviors, physical activities, and lifestyle trends that impact children's health. Participants will explore ways to balance food options, make healthy choices with limited resources, and encourage and model healthy behavior to youth and their families. Participants will also learn activities to teach children about healthy eating. The workshop is from 10am-1pm in NYC. Registration opens on Monday, September 24 at 9:00 am. Click [here](https://www.frac.org) for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

**10/16 and 10/17: The ECMHC Crisis of Confidence**

This live webinar series is designed to support those providing early childhood mental health consultation. A crisis of confidence happens in situations in which we have stopped believing that someone or something can work (is good). The work of an ECMHC can be as heartbreaking as it is rewarding. It is imperative that ECMHCs take time to pause and reflect on the emotionally intense nature of this work and the toll it takes on our confidence. Join seasoned ECMHC, Rachel Wagner, to do just that. To register click [here](https://www.frac.org).

**10/17-10/19: Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, New York City, NY**

Children’s Aid National Center for Community Schools presents the Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, a three-day seminar designed specifically for those new or relatively new to community schools. The Fundamentals Conference will share CA's lessons learned from over 25 years of implementation in New York City and capacity building across the country and beyond. In addition to conducting a study visit to a CA community school, participants will learn about the foundations and the “nuts and bolts” of the strategy. For more information and to register, follow [this link](https://www.frac.org).

**10/23 and 10/30: Building Your Bounce Professional Development Learning Series**

This train-the-trainer live webinar series provides participants with a copy of the Building Your Bounce Professional Development Learning Series that can be used to promote staff wellness in a variety of professional development events including staff meetings and in-service trainings. Join Nefertiti and learn how you can create an overall culture of resilience. To register, click [here](https://www.frac.org).

**10/24: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Child Abuse Identification and Prevention**

Participants in this Partnership for After School Education workshop will learn physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment. Participants will learn when and how a report must be made, actions the reporter is mandated to take, legal protections afforded reporters, and consequences for failing to report. The workshop is from 10am-1pm in NYC. Registration opens on Monday, October 8 at 9:00 am. Click [here](https://www.frac.org) for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

**10/25: Lights On Afterschool, Nationwide**

One million Americans will celebrate afterschool programs at 8,000 events nationwide. It's time for Lights On Afterschool! Registration for the 19th annual nationwide rally for afterschool is open.
Thursday, October 25, 2018 is a golden opportunity to make sure parents, policymakers, and communities understand the impact of afterschool programs in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and giving families peace of mind. The event planning kit has all the tools you need to help generate press coverage, excite the community, and inspire policymakers to invest in afterschool. Register today!

10/25: Town Hall Meeting: Examining the Business Side of Child Care
During this unique training, attorney and child care business expert Tom Copeland, and OCFS regulations expert Mark DeCicco, analyze case studies and highlight regulatory red flags with professionals from the child care community. At your site, you'll dissect the case studies and discuss your findings with your group. Then all participants around the state will tune in to hear what the experts Mr. Copeland and Mr. DeCicco have to say about the case studies and what you can do to avoid similar risky situations. The webcast is going to be packed with valuable information that will help fulfill the business maintenance responsibilities of your program. You’re not going to want to miss out, so register today! Visit the website www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu and click “Sign Up for Webcast Training.”

10/25-10/26: 48th Annual Youth Development Training Conference, Tarrytown, NY
The Association of Youth Bureaus and The Coalition for Homeless Youth invite youth professionals to attend their Annual Youth Development Training Conference. The training conference will focus on issues and initiatives supporting positive youth development, runaway and homeless youth, and afterschool programs and services. The conference offers colleagues the opportunity to share best/promising practices, learn skill sets to assist youth in achieving their goals, and hear updates on federal, state, and local issues and initiatives impacting the youth development field. More information can be found here.

10/26-10/28: 2018 NAMI-NYS Educational Conference
The conference will feature national leaders in mental health research, treatment, service delivery and advocacy who will provide attendees with the tools needed to understand how the treatment of psychiatric disorders is moving forward. Key topics disseminated at the conference will include identifying various types of community-based mental health services, the importance of family engagement in recovery, how to communicate the need for treatment to people who refuse treatment or don’t recognize their illness, suicide prevention strategies, how NAMI-NYS can serve as a community partner, as well as explore key advocacy issues such as mental health housing and insurance parity. To register, follow this link.

11/1: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Creating Physically Safe Spaces
In this Partnership for After School Education workshop, participants will learn how to spot safety hazards and make appropriate changes to keep youth safe. Participants will also understand safety procedures for indoor and outdoor environments, such as fire drills, evacuations, field trips and travel, and inter-agency communication; and gain a better understanding of effective communication and emergency response systems with program stakeholders, including parents, agency headquarters, and if school-based, designated building administrators. Participants will review School-Age Child Care (SACC) regulations related to safety and understand what their site's safety plan should include. The workshop is from 10am-1pm in NYC. Registration opens on Monday, October 15 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

11/1 and 11/8: Optimize Your Use of the DECA-C (Clinical)
This live webinar series highlights the DECA-C (Clinical): a standardized, norm-referenced behavior rating scale that evaluates behaviors related to social and emotional resilience and concerns in preschool children ages 2 through 5. It is designed to support early intervention efforts to reduce or eliminate significant emotional and behavioral concerns in preschool children. This webinar will focus on using the DECA-C as part of the DECA Program as well as its use as a stand alone tool. To register click here.

11/8: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Conflict Resolution
This Partnership for After School Education workshop will cover the basics of conflict resolution and effective communication. By exploring the roots of conflict, participants will gain new strategies not only for dealing positively with conflict, but also for helping children and youth manage conflicts. Participants will have the opportunity to practice conflict mediation skills through role-plays and active listening. The workshop is from 10am-1pm in NYC. Registration opens on Monday, October 22 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

11/10: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester
Our Rochester Training Institute is returning and will take place Saturday, November 10th, 2018. Take advantage of the Early Bird Rate until September 30! Register Now! This includes High-Quality Professional Development; six OCFS training hours; a variety of topics, and is appropriate for
supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! For more information, please click here!

11/12-11/14: Summer Changes Everything, Missouri
Join hundreds of summer learning and expanded opportunity leaders on November 12-14 in Kansas City, MO for National Summer Learning Association’s annual conference devoted entirely to summer learning. What to expect? The nation's top summer time leaders from across the country sharing and discussing effective learning approaches, systems building, program planning, policies, and ways to advocate for our nation's children. More information and registration can be found here!

3/5-3/18: National AfterSchool Association Convention, New York, New York
Join our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. For more information follow this link.

3/16: Terra Science and Engineering Fair
Whether you want to explore Cassini's adventures around Saturn, test water quality in a local creek, or design an app to prep for your next exam, the Terra Northeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair (TNRSEF) enables you to ask questions and find answers! Students in grades 6-12 can come to SUNY Geneseo in March to celebrate all s/he has learned and perhaps even earn an award. More information can be found here.

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
Save the Date! Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! Click here for more information!

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