Lockport YMCA Spotlight & New QSA STEM Supplement!

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January 2019

Spotlight
Kaitlyn Ferree of the Lockport YMCA

Kaitlyn Ferree is the program director for summer camp and before and afterschool programs at the Lockport YMCA. Kaitlyn informed us that Lockport runs two summer camps, one at the Lockport Family YMCA and one at Starpoint Elementary School. They also run 6 before and afterschool programs as well as vacation clubs and fun clubs on days when schools are closed.

Recently, they had the youth at their new facility for vacation club when school was closed for parent teacher conferences and it was the kids' first time being in the new building for these programs. Kaitlyn said, "We moved from an old building where there wasn’t much space, and it was hard to expand the program because we were held back by the building." With the new facility, they were able to grow, not only in program space, but also “this was the highest enrollment for the Starpoint program vacation club yet!” Kaitlyn stated that the kids started their days by making their own breakfast with the staff, and later on the kids got to swim in the brand-new pool. Kaitlyn added, “After lunch the kids got to explore our space themed adventure room and climb and play. They also got to use the gym for team building and physical activity. I think the best part was climbing our indoor rock wall.” Kaitlyn said that the kids were all cheering for each other and encouraging everyone to get to the top. Kaitlyn told us, “On my way out of the building around 5:30, I heard one of the kids talking to her mom saying, ‘mom I can wait to come back tomorrow.’ This was one of the first times that I have had that direct feedback to a program, and it was a great end to the day.”

Kaitlyn started her career in the classroom teaching 1st and 2nd grade and loved it, however, she stated that “coming from a background in summer camp and outside of the classroom time there was something missing for me.” Kaitlyn moved to New York and got into before and afterschool programs. She said that her job at the YMCA is so rewarding. Kaitlyn told us, “There are some kids who come to us at 7:00am, and they don’t get picked up until 6:00pm. I don’t care who you are, that is a long day, and these kids are under the age of 12! With them in school for so long it is so important for them to be benefitting from these programs and making something out of their time.” Kaitlyn says that working in this field gives you “such a great platform to really get through to the kids you work with and really help them with what they’re going through.” The kids and their families count on them to make sure that when they are not in school that they are learning, growing, and having fun, and these programs
do that in so many ways! Kaitlyn urged, “It’s way more than just child care, it’s a community where these kids are learning to be themselves.”

When asked what the best part of her job is Kaitlyn responded, “When I leave the office and go to the school sites and get to see the amazing things that my directors are doing with the kids at their sites.” Kaitlyn added, “There are so many wonderful things happening within these sites every day and we are such a small portion of all the good going on!” She included information about some of these amazing things like, “a site that [collected] new puzzles for a ‘piece-full holiday’ and the kids [wrapped] gifts for the staff to donate to those in need…a site that had a veteran come in and the kids got to ask him questions and show him how much they appreciated all he has done…[and] at another site…the site director made [a little girl] a sensory house out of a cardboard box where she can go and get all her wiggles out until she is ready to join the other kids…all of the other kids helped her decorate the house and made her feel so special.”

**QSA: Self-Assessing Your STEM Programming**

The new Third Edition of the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool includes an all new supplemental element: Informal STEM Learning. The indicators in this element help you take a deeper look at your STEM programming and plan for quality improvement. If you haven't started with STEM programming yet, these indicators and performance level examples can also help you determine where to start to ensure your new STEM program will be high-quality from the start.

This element was developed in partnership with the PEAR Institute at Harvard University. The PEAR Institute developed a 12-dimension framework to define quality for STEM programming in afterschool (Dimensions of Success, or DoS). The indicators in this self-assessment tool were heavily based on those 12 dimensions, and consultation with the DoS researchers at PEAR led to the four performance level definitions as well. While these do not exactly match the DoS rubrics and scoring structure, they are well-aligned and much of the language used here is borrowed from the DoS framework. The STEM indicators were also heavily influenced by the DoS Program Planning Tool, which is available from the PEAR Institute web site (http://www.thepearinstitute.org).

Check out the Informal STEM Learning supplemental element today!
New York State School-Age Care Credential DL Classes Starting in January!

Distance Learning begins January 22, 2019. Register Here!

Looking for a way to meet the educational requirements to be a site director at a school-age program? Looking for a way to "build your bench?"

The New York State School-Age Care Credential will help you meet these needs! Throughout the course, you'll learn how to meet children's needs and reduce challenging behaviors, all while gaining confidence in yourself as a professional.

The course can either be taken in-person at a local Host Agency or through our distance learning option. During the course, you'll work with a trained advisor who will help to ensure your success in the program and will work with you to advance your skills and expertise as an afterschool practitioner. You'll work with your instructor and advisor to further develop your knowledge in the 14 skill areas: professionalism, child development, safety, health, out-of-school environments, physical, cognitive, communication, creative, self, social, guidance, families, and operational program managements.

Candidates may even be eligible for scholarship funds through SUNY’s Educational Incentive Program to cover some or all of the costs associated with the course.

For more information, go to our webpage, or contact Erin at 518.694.0660 or Erin@NetworkforYouthSuccess.org

Upcoming Events

1/8 – 4/23: Supporting Youth Development through STEM
Increase your skills using positive youth development practices to engage youth in meaningful STEM learning experiences. This ACRES series includes 3 modules: Developing STEM Identities and Making Career Connections, Giving Youth Voice and Choice, and Exploring Youth Understanding in STEM. The group will meet for a lesson and coaching session for each module at 10 AM - 12 PM on Tuesdays from January 8 to April 23, 2019. Use this link for specific dates and to register.

1/16: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Child Abuse Identification and Prevention
Participants in this 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. Follow this link to register.

1/17: Perspectives from the Field Talk Show: Virtual Edition
Young people affected by trauma need support. Team Up Mentoring's unique approach pairs each child with a specialized team of mentors, tutors, therapists, counselors, transportation, and members of the faith community. These lifelong relationships begin as young as age 3 and last until the youth reaches age 21, providing the kind of safety net that these children and youth might not otherwise have access to. Connect with host Shawn Petty and guest Anna Blount in this interactive talk show where the audience guides the conversation. Shawn and Anna will discuss methods for helping kids succeed and equipping them with the skills they need to become healthy adults. Click here to register.

1/17: AfterSchool KidzMath™
AfterSchool KidzMath™, for grades K-6, a project of the Center for the Collaborative Classroom in Oakland, CA, incorporates two methodologies of teaching math to school-age children who participate in afterschool programs. This training introduces participants to the interactive games and story-based programming that make up the KidzMath™ curriculum, available at collaborativeclassroom.org. Participants will discuss their own math experiences, learn about the before, during, and after process of facilitating games and guides by engaging in hands-on experiences, and have discussions about how to promote cooperative games with children. The training will allow participants to both experience and see KidzMath™ in action. Follow this link to register.

1/23: Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
The Network for Youth Success will be hosting our Annual Advocacy Day on January 23, 2019! Program providers, students, parents, and other supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs are encouraged to join us in Albany, NY to meet New York State Assembleymembers and Senators to advocate for New York's children and families. Click here to register!

1/26 and 3/16: CryptoClub Training in Schenectady
CryptoClub is a 12-20 activity curriculum that uses message encryption and decryption to explore applied mathematical concepts. This two-day training session features hands-on experiences with ciphers and codes, starting with pen-and-paper and moving on to using a computer. Participants will walk away with materials to start their own CryptoClub, including teacher's manual and workbooks for 15 students. This training is for educators in the middle grades (4th through 9th) who serve at least 15 students. Cost is $794 total (covers both days of training). For more information about CryptoClub, visit the University of Chicago's page for CryptoClub. To register, click here. You can also email Timothy Fowler (timothy@networkforyouthsuccess.org) with "CryptoClub in Schenectady" in the subject line if you have questions.

1/28: Community Schools Advocacy Day
Join the New York State Community Schools Network as they host their 4th annual statewide advocacy day in Albany on Monday January 28, 2019. The event is to advocate for the New York State Community Schools Network's FY20 Budget Priorities and inform the state legislature on the community schools strategy by highlighting local efforts and stories of impact across the state. Registration can be found here.

1/29 - 1/31: 21st Global Youth Justice Training, Las Vegas, NV
These rapidly expanding local volunteer-driven diversion programs harness positive peer pressure and utilize it in a peer judgment setting to help address the anti-social, delinquent, and criminal behavior of youthful offenders. The peer judgment, volunteer-driven, youth-led, and positive peer pressure aspects of these diversion programs are the primary programmatic elements that separate these juvenile justice and youth justice diversion programs from all others. This three (3) day training institute includes a free 1/2 day grant writing session, and provides participants with the knowledge and skills to establish, expand, enhance and/or learn Teen/Youth/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury programs. This new Double-Track Training includes sessions for beginners and an advanced track. Click here to register.

2/1: Science Action Club: Bird Scouts Training
This training will take place at the Network for Youth Success office in Troy. This training will give practitioners the knowledge and materials to run 12 modules of content and engage youth in citizen science connected to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Follow this link to register.

2/23: Girls in STEM Fair at RIT
Girls in grades 5 through 12 are invited to experience hands-on demonstrations presented by RIT’s female students and faculty. Come to explore. Come to engage. Come to see all the possibilities of STEM! Free and open to the public! Register by February 8th at: https://bit.ly/2RDqGX2

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.

3/12-3/14: Challenging Behavior in Preschool Children Train-the-Trainer, Hartford, CT
This train-the-trainer session is designed specifically for professionals working with teachers to better support preschool children with challenging behavior. During this professional development experience, trainers will participate in an intensive, interactive session delving more deeply into the understanding of, prevention of and planned responses to challenging behaviors in young children. It highlights the Devereux Center for Resilient Children DVD resource, Facing the Challenge, as well as the best-selling book by Barbara Kaiser and Judy Sklar-Rasminksy, Challenging Behavior in Young Children, 4th Edition. This session is a MUST for trainers who want to enhance their training sessions on the difficult and important topic of working with children with challenging behaviors. Click here to register. (Registration closes March 1st).

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
Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! The New York State Network for Youth Success is holding its Annual Conference May 10 & 11! Come attend New York’s only statewide conference for Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Professionals. This conference brings together over 200 professionals to participate in two full days of workshops on topics ranging from SEL to Leadership. Follow this link to register today!

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Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

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