Spotlight: Watertown Family YMCA

The Watertown Family YMCA, through quality programs, provides for the strengthening of families, the healthy development of children, positive individual behaviors, and a healthy, safer community for all. These programs emphasize caring, respect, honesty, character building, fun, and friendship. The YMCA is a charitable organization which creates a sense of community through involving individuals and families of all ages, genders, abilities, incomes and races. These programs have been posting daily videos on the YMCA webpage and Facebook page including but not limited to cooking lessons, science projects, story hour, fitness classes for all ages and abilities, and arts. The organization has been in close communication with local partners to ensure they are meeting the needs of their community. They have also kept their community informed through the media.
Is your program working hard to offer quality services to your community? Let us know about it by filling out a quick questionnaire and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.

Update on CARES Act Funding for Child Care

On September 10, Governor Cuomo announced $88.6 million in CARES Act funding available to assist child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers may apply for the funding at https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/. Applications will be posted later this month and will be accepted on a rolling basis until December 31, 2020. To learn more about the update, click here.

According to the press release, the $88.6 million in grant funds will be used as follows:

- **$20 million**
  
  Child care scholarships for children of essential workers whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level - or $78,600 for a family of four - and will be paid up to market rate for each region statewide. The funding will support 5,400 children in child care for 14 weeks.

- **$20 million**
  
  Rental assistance for about 2,300 school-age child care programs with $2,000 in monthly rental assistance for four months. Programs may also use the funding for transporting children to the new location.

- **$20 million**
  
  Grants for closed child care programs to reopen or restructure under new guidelines for social distancing. This may cover partitions, short-term rental space, supplies, or broadband access.

- **$28.6 million**
  
  Grants for child care providers to pay for half of the cost (up to $6,000) to open a new classroom.

We thank the afterschool field for your continued advocacy and critical information (via survey responses) you have provided to the Network to help make informed decisions to the State. To see results on the Network’s surveys, visit our Afterschool and School Reopening page.

Self-Assessment for Virtual/Remote Programming

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many programs have moved to remote programming. A number of tools have become available to assess and improve the quality of virtual/remote programming. These tools are similarly structured to the Network’s Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool.

- This tool from QTurn and the Michigan Afterschool Partnership includes a self-assessment for virtual programming as well as for in-person socially distanced programming.
- BellXcel is offering a Remote Quality Reflection Tool to assess and improve the quality of remote programming. The tool was created by the Sperling Center for Research and
Innovation (SCRI).

- Denver Afterschool Alliance’s new tool is aligned with the Wiekart Center’s Youth Program Quality Assessment. The tool begins on page 34, and a link to an informational webinar on utilizing the tool is included.

- The Network for Youth Success’ webinar on using the QSA Tool remotely may also help with structuring self-assessment work while in a remote environment.

- Other resources for virtual learning are available through the Afterschool Alliance’s dedicated page.

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**October 22, 2020 Lights on Afterschool**

Keeping students supported, engaged, and learning is one of the most vital benefits afterschool programs can bring to their communities during COVID. The Afterschool Alliance wants to show the world all the amazing ways afterschool programs are helping to innovate and lead the movement to rethink the school day.

The *Top Themes page* has been updated with ideas and recommendations for delivering exciting and inspiring programming to your students, online, in-person, or in a partially-reopened setting. Fire up Zoom for an entrepreneurial pitch contest, sign up for 4-H's STEM Challenge, reach out to your town hall about lighting up a landmark in October... the sky is the limit for creativity this year!

**Posters are shipping soon!** This year, the Afterschool Alliance is mixing it up, using two fantastic photos from *Life Pieces To Masterpieces* and *Breakthrough Miami*. Every program to register will receive 5 copies of each poster, ready for use in windows, on community boards, and as lawn signs. Want your posters? [Register your program now!](#) Even if you are not doing a typical event, they will have new offerings and developments that all can take part in, no matter your circumstances. Visit the [virtual event planning kit](#) for ways to showcase and celebrate your program during COVID, and check out their new [graphics and social media tools](#).

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**$25 Membership to Celebrate the Network’s 25th Anniversary**

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we are having a promotion throughout the month of September offering a 1-year individual membership for $25! This promotion is only for individual memberships purchased in the month of September. These must be new memberships, currently expired memberships, or memberships expiring in the month of September. Thank you to all you for allowing us to make it to 25 years and counting!

To purchase a membership, [click here](#).
Network for Youth Success Events

10/7: Fall SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Capital District
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. You must live in the Capital Region to sign up for this course. For more information email asalamonepowers@cdymca.org. To register, click here.

10/19, 10/20, 10/27, 10/28, 11/4, & 11/5: Let’s Do This! Healthy Eating and Physical Activities in Afterschool
Join the Network for Youth Success for a FREE TRAINING for afterschool programs. These nutrition-focused workshops will give staff the tools needed to encourage healthy eating in afterschool and summer programs so each child has the opportunity to build a healthy mindset and active lifestyle. Participants will learn how to link healthy eating to fun and engaging programming, write activity plans to promote healthy eating in afterschool programs, communicate how healthy eating habits can be incorporated into a quality program, and implement hands-on nutrition activities. This workshop is for front-line staff and their supervisors. Click here to register.

1/19 & 4/27: Part 2 Spring 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL)
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Spring 2021.

SAVE THE DATE: 4/23 & 4/24, 2021: School’s Out, Make it Count Annual Conference
Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings on a wide variety of topics, various vendors, awards, networking, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events

9/21, 9/22, 9/23, & 9/24: Social and Emotional Learning (Four Part Series)
Join the Y4Y team as they dive into each step of the process for delivering high-quality social and emotional learning activities - planning, designing, implementing and assessing your efforts. The webinar will start with assessing your organization's ability to implement SEL instruction. Next up is the program design - reviewing the necessary data and conducting a needs assessment. On the third day of the series, you'll get information on how to plan activities and routines designed to improve social and emotional learning skills in students. The week will end discussing how to maintain and improve your SEL programming. To register, click here.
9/22, 10/13, & 11/10: Million Girls Moonshot Engineering Practice Support Equity [three-webinar series]
Interested in developing professional development focused on engineering mindset in youth? Wondering how to do this in equitable ways that encourage engagement and participation of girls and other underrepresented youth? This webinar, the first in a three-part series, focuses on three core engineering practices: using a systematic problem-solving process, exploring the properties and uses of materials, and considering real-world problems. Click here for more information.

10/22: Lights on Afterschool
Take part in the 21st annual Lights on Afterschool to reflect, celebrate, and call attention to the afterschool programs that are so critical to youth and families. It’s been a hard year, and Lights On will look very different this year. There are new ways for everyone to take part. Even if you are not doing a typical event, register! There will be new offerings and developments that all can take part in, no matter your circumstances or operating status. Afterschool programs are rising to the moment to support youth and families during the pandemic — from innovative virtual programming to meals to caring for children of essential workers to wellbeing check-ins. We need to celebrate and recognize your efforts, and call attention to the importance of afterschool supports as our nation moves ahead. For more information or to register, click here.

10/16 & 10/17: Empire State Maker Faire 2020
Regional faires throughout New York State have banded together to create a virtual interactive experience! Empire State Maker Faire will share the creative work and technical know-how of all kinds of makers who share a passion for making. The event features demonstrations, performances and how-to workshops, and an online project showcase. For more information or to register, click here.

Fall 2020 (Multiple Dates): Core Body of Knowledge Virtual Training Series
Explore how the CBK is to be used as the foundation for professional preparation and development of New York’s early childhood workforce and how it fits into the broader scope of training and coaching protocols. The CBK can provide a framework for supervisors and trainers to evaluate performance of individual staff and support the planning of professional development to ensure that it is intentional and relevant to the strengths, interests, and needs of each teacher. The session will include a review of materials; small group discussions; and hands-on, interactive activities to help trainers develop meaningful professional development opportunities. To register, click here.

Fall 2020: NYS SAC Credential Courses, Harvest Professional Services, NYC
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. These virtual sessions are being offered by Harvest Professional Services. You must live in the NYC Region to sign up for this course.
8/31 - 12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 10 AM - 1 PM MONDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
8/31 - 12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 7 PM - 10 PM MONDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
9/16 - 12/9: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II - 10 AM - 1 PM WEDNESDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
9/12 - 10/24: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 9 AM - 4 PM SATURDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
10/24 - 12/12: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II - 9 AM - 4 PM SATURDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
For more information or to register contact Maizelin Knowlin at harvestprofessionalservices@yahoo.com or 347-570-8047.
Ways You Can Help the Network!

Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

For regular updated resources regarding COVID-19 check out our COVID-19 Resource Page.

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
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