On September 14, the Network for Youth Success welcomed our fourth cohort of the Power of 3:00 Ambassadors program. These twelve, passionate afterschool supporters and advocates—representing seven of our Regional Networks around the state—will work closely with our policy department over the next year to become dedicated advocates for New York’s youth and families.

LEARN MORE about our 2020-2021 Power of 3:00 Ambassadors.
Jessica Stasi is the owner of Snapology of Manhattan and Long Island City. Snapology provides interactive, hands-on workshops for children ages 2-14. Using LEGO® bricks, K’Nex and/or laptops, Snapology helps children explore age-appropriate robotics, animation, science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) concepts. When the pandemic upended the education system, Jessica and her team remained committed to serving students in underserved areas. "Everyone is really pulling together to make afterschool work," said Jessica.

In addition to her work with Snapology, Jessica is one of the Network’s new Power of 3:00 Ambassadors. When asked what motivated her to become an ambassador, Jessica noted, "Unemployment for those affected by COVID-19 along with education budget cuts widens this gap of accessibility of enhanced quality education typically provided in an afterschool environment, and I want to have a direct impact on that change."

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.

Digital Equity in the time of COVID-19

"COVID-19 and the abrupt shift to virtual learning and service provisions have fundamentally altered geographies of educational opportunity. While this transition has potentially opened a space for expansive thinking and bold innovation in education, it has also amplified the need for swift and effective approaches to ensure digital equity." -Trent Sharp, AIR

Trent Sharp, a former principal, conducted a case study that examined how technology intersects with educational opportunity among public housing residents. In this resource from the American Institutes for Research, Sharp provides critical insights into the complexities of digital equity that persist far beyond a school's ability to supply every student with an adequate device. When identifying ways to support your participants during the pandemic, consider Sharp’s main findings:

1. Digital equity has a shelf life. Outdated technology can't keep pace with current demands.
2. Broadband access is variable.
3. Digital literacy is important both for students and parents.
4. Schools and community partners need to work together to support students.

To learn more about promoting digital equity and opportunity, click here.
Afterschool programs are a natural space to provide engaging, hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning. LightsOn has ample in-person and virtual ideas for holding an amazing STEM event, from the 4-H STEM Challenge to marble mazes and Rube Goldberg machines. Students can even learn how to extract DNA from a strawberry.

To sustain your STEM work, Facebook’s Engineer for the Week offers a free, high-quality computer science and engineering course for afterschool programs. For a limited time, programs can earn $500 for completing the one-week program.

Register for Lights On Afterschool now!

THREE lucky programs that register by Oct. 1 will win 25 Mars Base Camp kits from 4-H’s 2020 STEM Challenge!

Afterschool Alliance Wave 3 Provider Survey

The Afterschool Alliance is once again asking for your help to continue to tell the story of how COVID-19 is impacting afterschool and summer learning programs, and the young people and families who rely on them. This third survey is focused specifically on the ways in which the pandemic has or has not affected your fall programming. The survey should take approx. 10 minutes. Your responses will be anonymous.

Click the links below to access results from the previous Wave 1 and Wave 2 surveys (based on responses from afterschool programs nationwide).

Wave 1: Read the brief here. For a summary of the survey results, click here.
Wave 2: Read the brief here. For a summary of the survey results, click here.
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.

Oct. 19, 20, 27, 28; Nov. 4 & 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.

Jan. 19 & Apr. 27: Spring 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Part 2
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! Apr. 23-24, 2021: School’s Out, Make it Count
The Network’s annual conference will be held April 23-24, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings, vendor exhibits, awards, networking, and more. Stay tuned!

Other Events

Oct. 1: Caring for Children and Youth in Crisis (Part I: Using Evidence to Support Trauma-Informed Approaches to Healing in Afterschool)
This three-part webinar series discusses the importance of trauma-informed approaches in out-of-school time settings, and the critical role that afterschool and summer program providers and networks can play in helping youth manage and recover from trauma. Part I will illuminate what we know about the effects of adversity on child and adolescent brain development, with an eye toward why trauma-informed practices are so important and practical tools and strategies for programs to employ when working with youth who may be dealing with trauma. For more information or to register, click here.

Oct 7: Voices for Healthy Kids Summit (virtual)
The Summit Series is a chance to learn, explore and share ideas to make each day healthier for all children. Voices for Healthy Kids has carefully selected content for this year’s event to help advance their work in health equity and policy change. There are three sessions: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and System Oppression Workshop; DEI and System Oppression Breakout; and Campaigns on the Leading Edge. The deadline to register is October 5. For more information or to register, click here.

Oct. 13 & Nov. 10: Million Girls Moonshot Engineering Practice Support Equity (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. For more information, click here.
Oct. 16 & 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.

Oct. 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 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.

Oct. 22: Virtual Convening: Relationships + Connection = Learning
The Whole Child Connection at Children's Institute, ROC the Future, the Greater Rochester After School and Summer Alliance, Rochester City School District, and Youth Voice One Vision invite you to join them for this virtual event centered on transforming learning environments through the power of relationships. This interactive event will elevate your understanding of the importance of developing, maintaining and repairing relationships as a catalyst to learning. Community youth leaders will share invaluable insights regarding the importance of relationships and context in learning, with a focus on equity and racial justice. The keynote speaker is the inspiring Dr. Dena Simmons, activist, educator, and student of life. Space is limited. 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 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.

Please note: These virtual sessions are offered by Harvest Professional Services and are only open to those in the NYC region. For more information or to register, contact Maizelin Knowlin at harvestprofessionalsservices@yahoo.com or 347-570-8047.

8/31-12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I; Mondays, 10am-1pm
8/31-12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I; Mondays, 7pm-10pm
9/16-12/9: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II; Wednesdays, 10am-1pm
9/12-10/24: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I; Saturdays, 9am-4pm
10/24-12/12: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II; Saturdays, 9am-4pm
Quick Ways To Support the Network

Support us through Amazon Smile. Make a donation. Become a member.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.


Please visit our website at networkforyouthsuccess.org. Donate to our cause at networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate.