



Alysha Branch &lt;alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org&gt;

## Spotlight on Leshawn Outing, summer meal sites, policy updates, and more

1 message

Alysha Branch <alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org>  
To: Alysha Branch <alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org>

Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 9:35 AM



### Network Newsletter | June 30, 2021

[Spotlight: Leshawn Outing](#)

[Let's Keep Kids Healthy This Summer](#)

[STEM Activities for Programs, Youth, and Families](#)

[Policy Updates](#)

[Dear Provider Letters](#)

[Events](#)

[Support the Network for Youth Success](#)

## Spotlight: Leshawn Outing

This week, the Network is pleased to shine a spotlight on Leshawn Outing, Howard Site Director with the Capital District YMCA. In this role, Leshawn has the opportunity to expand her own learning and to meet children from diverse cultural backgrounds, which she says is her favorite part of her job.

Leshawn has been a child care provider and worked with children since 2014. When asked what led her to pursue her career in child care, Leshawn said, "I had an afterschool staff that I could confide in, and I want a child to find that same relationship with me." Leshawn has, indeed, been an important resource and support for the children of her program.

Leshawn took the SAC Credential Course through the Network for Youth Success to "gain more knowledge and create a high-quality program." Through taking this course, Leshawn recognized the importance of continuing to expand her learning, noting "there is still always room to learn how to better the program and myself."



*To find an agency that teaches the SAC Credential near you, [click here](#).*

*For more information on the asynchronous distance learning course, [click here](#).*

### Program Spotlight

Want to be featured on Facebook or our enews?

Fill out the personal/program form to tell us about the great things you or your program are doing.

#### Personal Spotlight | Program Spotlight

## Let's Keep Kids Healthy This Summer!



Children who eat healthy during summer retain more of what they learned during the previous school year and are better prepared when they go back in the fall.

Summer meal sites include schools, parks, churches, public pools, community centers, camps, housing communities, libraries, YMCAs, farmers' markets, medical centers, summer recreation programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and museums.

Hunger Solutions New York added a searchable map to its website to help locate free, healthy meals nearby.

#### [Find a Summer Meals Site Near You!](#)

## Together at Home: STEM Activities for Programs, Youth, and Families

### [Student Activity: 4 Great Outdoor Activities to Do With Kids This Summer](#)

These easy activities from 4-H are designed to be suitable in a COVID-conscious environment. Young children play outdoor games, plant a garden, make ice cream, and participate in a scavenger hunt.

### [Student "STEAM" Activity: Art Infused with STEM Learning Activities Makes for a Colorful Time](#)

KinderCare's very simple approach to STEM uses outdoor experiences and art to engage young children in math and science discussions. The activities build on curiosity in young children and are very easy to facilitate.



### [Student Activity: Design Your Own Snazzy Sneaker](#)

Youth use an engineering design process to design a shoe that meets design requirements they specify.

### [Student Activity: Team Building for STEM Challenges](#)

In this team building activity, youth work together to lift an object by using a set of strings attached to a center ring. Each student grabs a few strings and must work together to raise the item in the center. The task requires concentration and communication and introduces the value of teamwork.

### [Guide for Educators: A 'Pi in the Sky' Math Challenge](#)

The "Pi in the Sky" math challenge from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory gives students in grades 10–12 a chance to find solutions to real-world problems all while using math and pi,

just like NASA scientists and engineers. This structured activity includes hands-on, minds-on extensions.

### Posters and Printables For Educators: [Free Printable Summer Math Games](#)

Get a free month of activities, videos, and fun experiences from 123 Homeschool 4 Me. Kids “build” a Math Monster who leads them through the activities. The website adapts to the child’s capacity—gently, but constantly increasing the difficulty of the activities. Appropriate for grades 1–8.

### For Parents: [Top 10 Summer Math Activities](#)

From the Math Research Institute, Developing Our MathMINDs is a series of discussions with math experts for parents. It provides good ideas about how to adapt to the current situation, take advantage of informal situations, and move forward during the summer. It includes ideas and tips like “The Top 10 Ways to Experience Math this Summer.”

## Policy Updates



### New York Announces \$25 Million in Child Care Scholarships for Essential Workers

Beginning on June 23, the Essential Worker Scholarship became available to essential workers that are residents of New York State. These scholarships are the first in a series of new investments to support working families and the child care industry through the Coronavirus Response

and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan. The scholarship will be awarded weekly through payments made directly to child care providers.

Scholarships will cover essential workers with income less than 300% of the federal poverty level for children aged 6 weeks through 12 years. It will pay up to market rate for each region statewide with parents responsible for paying any tuition amount that is greater than the market rate.

Read more and access the application to apply for these scholarships [here](#).

### New York State Awards Grants to Extended School Day and School Violence Prevention Programs

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) awarded more than **\$24 million** in state-funded grants for extended school day and school violence prevention programs. Grants, ranging from \$44,000 to \$350,000, were available to school districts and nonprofit organizations working in collaboration with public school districts. NYSED awarded grants to 80 organizations.



These grants are intended to provide support to students with the goal of increasing student achievement, providing extracurricular enrichment activities, and assisting in the prevention of school violence.

To read more, [click here](#).

## Dear Provider Letters

See below for the most recent Dear Provider letters.

- **June 24, 2021 Executive Order Update: PLEASE READ!**—This letter communicates important information for child care programs. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your regulator.
- **June 23, 2021 Essential Worker Scholarship**—The Office of Children and Family Services is excited to announce that effective immediately, \$25 million in funds are available to provide child care support for children of essential workers. This is the first phase in a series of new investments to support the child care industry and working families as provided for by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.
- **June 7, 2021 DOH Interim Guidance for Child Care and Camps**—This revision is the most current version for programs to follow., Day Camp, and Overnight Camp Programs During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- **June 9, 2021 Comprehensive Background Checks**—This letter contains important information for individuals in child care programs who have not yet completed the required comprehensive background check process. Please read this information carefully and reach out to your regulator with any questions.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field?

Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

**EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY**



## Network for Youth Success Events

### July 26: NYS School Age Care Credential Orientation, Western NY ONLY (10 am – 12 pm)

Earning the NYS SAC Credential can improve your skills in caring for school age children and may increase your qualifications for job opportunities. The SAC Credential Program is a great opportunity for you to gain specific school-age training and receive professional recognition for your on-the-job skills. This orientation will provide you with information necessary to prepare for the SAC Credential process as well as to learn about scholarship opportunities.

***This orientation is for the new class beginning in September 2021.***

Please note this is a FREE, non-credit bearing information session. If you have any questions about the orientation or the NYS SACC program, please contact Sara Rickan at [srickan@wnychildren.org](mailto:srickan@wnychildren.org).

**[Register now.](#)**

### Aug. 10–19: Health and Safety for SAC Directors (virtual)

Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the

most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program.

This is a six-session course (Aug. 10–12, 17–19), running from 9 am–12 pm. Participants are required to attend all sessions.

[Register now.](#)

---

### **September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (Online-Asynchronous), Part 1**

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 Fall 2021.**

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.

---

### **Starting in September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (in-person), Part 1**

*Only those working in the Capital Region may sign up for this course.*

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.

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 management.

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. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State.

### **Course Details and Registration Information**

**When:** Wednesdays, 10am-1pm (with an occasional Tuesday)

**Where:** Healthy Living Center, [900 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206\\*](#)

**Instructors:** Alicia Salamone-Powers, Erin Broderick, Timothy Fowler

**\*Note:** We are hoping this remains an in-person course. However, depending on the circumstances this fall, we may have to go to virtual or hybrid.

[Register](#)

---

**Check the Network for Youth Success [events page](#) anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.**

## Other Events

### July 12–16: National Summer Learning Week

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school ready to succeed in the year. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) developed this webpage to share toolkits and resources to support summer planning and promote National Summer Learning Week. To access more information and resources, [click here](#).

### Skill Development in STEM Programming

ICYMI, the National Girls Collaborative Project held a webinar on STEM skills development. The webinar focused on the equity and inclusion framework as well as 21st century skills and career exploration.



**Watch the webinar.**

**View the slides.**

### Summer Bootcamp: Get Ready for Summer Series (recording)

The Summer Bootcamp Series provides program leaders with the tools they need at this moment to keep kids healthy, learning, earning, and thriving through this pandemic and beyond. In this series, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) dives into strategies to accelerate learning, build critical partnerships, and plan successful programs with evidence-based practices relevant to any scenario of summer plans emerging this season. To view the recordings and materials, [click here](#).

## Quick Ways To Support the Network

Support us through [Amazon Smile](#).

Make a [donation](#).

Become a [member](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) for updated information and guidance.

Please visit our website at [networkforyouthsuccess.org](http://networkforyouthsuccess.org).  
Donate to our cause at [networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate](http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate).

[Remove my name from all future mass email communications:](#)

7/8/2021

New York State Network for Youth Success Mail - Spotlight on Leshawn Outing, summer meal sites, policy updates, and more

*Address postal inquiries to:*

New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.

415 River Street

Troy, NY 12180