

Summer Summary 2014

Summer 2014 was a huge success! Although this summer may not have brought the scorching heat we may have expected, you didn't have to look far for many "hot" activities to keep busy! The *Town of Horseheads Youth Bureau* worked extremely hard all summer providing free programs to youth and their families. Youth Week, Family Day, Earth Week, Summer Drama and many more special events catered to over 2,500 local youth and community members!

The *Town of Horseheads Youth Bureau's* summer always kicks off in early July with an end of the year celebration for all the youth involved in our year round programs. Members of Youth Council, Action Team, Youth Court, Heights Heroes, Youth Advisory Board and Youth Bureau Staff came together for a spectacular end of the year celebration to reflect on the activities of the past year. Youth were able to participate in contests, spend time with friends, win prizes and say their final good byes to the graduating class of 2014!

The end of the year celebration was just the beginning of summer! The whole Youth Bureau staff was in the midst of preparing for *Youth Week!* *Youth Week*, a standing tradition at the *Town of Horseheads Youth Bureau*, is held in July and offers youth the opportunity to get out of the house and do something they wouldn't normally do during their summer vacation. *Youth Week* offered an array of free trips to local parks and hiking trails! Trips included Watkins Glen State Park, Park Station, Eldridge Park, Robert Treman State Park and a trip to Darien Lake which included a charter bus, snacks and drinks and park admission under the supervision of adult chaperones. These activities provided involvement opportunities to younger age groups as well. Towards the middle of the week, community members young and old joined us at the *Youth Bureau* for a day full of fun! Ross Park Zoomobile stopped by with some extraordinary animals and kids were able to use their imagination to create works of art with tie-dye and jewelry making! Later in the week, at the *Youth Bureau* Survivor teamwork challenge, participating youth were able to make friends and build bonds! The grand prize winner of the event who was able to outwit, outplay and outlast, walked away with a brand new Flat Screen T.V! The week culminated with a community wide celebration known as *Family Day*. Another long standing tradition which is held at Thorne Street Park, *Family Day* provided the opportunity for over 25 local agencies to come out and show what they have to offer to the community! Not only did each agency offer some great information, but they also provided games and prizes for all! *The Youth Bureau* Staff organized a classic car show, face painting, multiple contests, sandy candy and jewelry making! *The Youth Bureau* also brought in Bobby-K to set up huge inflatable bouncy castle and water slide, as well as spin art! Joey Cavallaro's Dixieland Band treated everyone's ears with sweet music during the afternoon festivities! The night continued on with the best fireworks display in the area! Because of the wonderful community involvement, *Family Day* was a huge success and everyone had a great time!

The summer didn't end there! The *Youth Bureau* Staff continued to plan and organize, which lead right into *Earth Week!* Held in August, *Earth Week* gives local Youth the opportunity to get out in their community, out into nature and out into fun! This year, *Earth Week* provided free trips to Taughannock Falls, Tanglewood, Harris Hill and Stonybrook Park, with another chance to have a fantastic time at Darien Lake in the middle of the week. Similar to *Youth Week*, there wasn't a shortage of activities for younger youth during *Earth Week!* The Ross Park Zoomobile also stopped by the Youth Bureau again for another day filled with interesting animals, tie-dye and arts n' crafts. An Environmental Scavenger Hunt gave kids, grades four and under, the chance to get out and have some fun while putting their mind to the test in order to find each item! All in all the *Earth Weeks* events and activities went great.

Throughout the summer, 40 youth worked every day for six weeks perfecting their skills on stage as they sang and danced through their own rendition of *No Strings Attached* for the *Town of Horseheads Youth Bureau's* *Summer Drama Experience!* Under the direction of Medina Ejaz and her two Assistant Directors, Kate Nicole Hoffman and Will Gfeller, the young actors and actresses grasped the concepts of acting, improvisation, blocking, signing and stage presence. All of their hard work paid off with a Broadway stage-worthy production that brought the audience to their feet!

The Youth Bureau would like to thank everyone who came out and had a great time this summer! We love having the opportunity to provide such events to the community free of charge and couldn't have done it without the support of the Horseheads Town Board and Town Supervisor! Huge thanks go out to them for helping make the summer of 2014 a summer filled with unforgettable fun!



Summer Drama Experience



Harris Hill



Furious and Chip Maxham at WETM TV



Youth Week Trip



50 Youth attend Darien Lake



Brianna and Grace