



Youth Bureau and Recreation

Purpose

The Horseheads Youth Bureau is dedicated to the development of youth into responsible citizens of the community. Education, recreation, counseling, delinquency diversion activities, community information and program research of youth needs are provided by three full-time staff, several part-time staff and many community volunteers.

The ultimate goal of the Youth Bureau is to provide a variety of positive experiences! In order to provide relevant youth services, the needs and interests of our town are defined with the assistance of the Youth Advisory Board consisting of both adult members and youth members.

The Youth Bureau is a department of the Town of Horseheads directly responsible to the Horseheads Town Supervisor. Funding is obtained from the Town of Horseheads and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services as well as donations from the community. The Youth Bureau provides services for all youth attending Elmira Heights and Horseheads Central Schools.

Youth Court

When a young person between the ages of 7-15 is found breaking a law no more serious than a misdemeanor, he/she can be summoned to the Town of Horseheads Youth Court. Members are youth, grades 7-12, who are trained to assume positions as judges, lawyers and law clerks in this trial-by-peers process.

This nationally recognized Youth Court enables its members to act with responsibility and self-government while allowing youth to pay for their offenses without incurring a criminal record. Youth Court is designed to allow all youth who participate in the program to learn more about the law and the criminal justice process as it relates to young people in our own community.

Action Team

The Action Team is an introductory youth empowerment group that is modeled after the Town of Horseheads Youth Council. Through the collaborative efforts of the 7th and 8th grade youth, the Action Team is able to plan and implement numerous leadership, volunteering and recreational activities in the community.

If you are in the Horseheads Middle School and are interested in the Horseheads Action Team, contact the Horseheads Youth Bureau and speak with Heather Carlyle. The Horseheads Action Team meets bi-weekly for an hour and a half. Come and join!

Heights Heroes

Heights Heroes is youth empowerment group modeled after the Action Team that caters to Elmira Heights 6th, 7th and 8th graders who wish to get involved in their community. Through planning they have been able to implement numerous volunteer based events and activities in the community.

Juvenile Law Education

Juvenile Law is a five hour program presented to 5th and 6th grade youth in the Elmira Heights/Horseheads area. It deals with law awareness and delinquency prevention. Each one hour session involves films, questionnaires, role playing, discussions and booklets about law, youth rights and responsibilities.

After using the above aids, the students and their teachers discuss certain situations or behavior. Some common examples include vandalism, stealing, drugs and truancy. A local police officer attends one of the classes to discuss good citizenship and crime prevention.

This program helps youth become aware of the seriousness of crime and its consequences. Young people become familiar with the legal system and Family Court procedures. Education is the best delinquency prevention.

Youth Employment Service

The Youth Employment Service acts as a referral service for jobs involving youth ages 14-21. Youth Employment Service, or Y.E.S., is a FREE job referral agency established to match Horseheads and Elmira Heights youth with available jobs in the private sector and odd jobs in residents' homes and local businesses.

Recreation

The Youth Bureau serves as a clearinghouse of youth sports information all year. Local youth leagues include: Little League Baseball, Girls Softball, Small Fry Football, Soccer (Coed), Basketball, Lacrosse, Swimming, BMX Bike Racing and more. Contact the Youth Bureau for registration dates, age requirements and other information.

Summer Cohesion is a six week recreation, arts and crafts, cultural enrichment program which occurs at several local schools during the summer (early July to mid-August) for youth ages 4-12 years.

Visit the Holding Point Recreation Center on Wygant Road. A BMX Bike Track is available along with soccer fields, baseball fields, a rollerblade/walking path, the box lacrosse field and other fun activities.

Youth Participants

Some community programs require a registration fee. No youth residing in the Town or Village of Horseheads and Elmira Heights will be prevented from participation in any activity due to an inability to pay. Local groups and individuals contribute to the Youth Bureau to insure all kids can participate regardless of economic background. Contact the Youth Bureau Director for more information.

Learning Web

Learning Web allows youth to explore a skill, trade, craft or hobby through an educational workshop. The Learning Web Coordinator encourages all adults with a special skill or trade to contact the Youth Bureau in order to discuss the opportunity to encourage and educate youth.

Various workshops will be held throughout the year that will focus on nutrition, babysitting skills and job skills.

Youth Council

The goal of Youth Council is to empower teens to develop leadership and confidence building skills through conferences, seminars and community service events. These youth then interact with other youth using their new skills. This allows youth leaders to gain confidence in themselves and act positively within our community. Youth Council participants will have an opportunity to design and implement youth development activities and learn about local government.

Want to get involved? Contact the Horseheads Youth Bureau (607) 739-3517

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