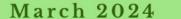


YOUTH BUREAU NEWS

A St. Lawrence County Monthly Newsletter



Vol 4 Issue 3











Eight St. Lawrence County

Teen Ambassadors visited

Albany and attended the

Annual Youth Leadership

Forum & Legislative Day.

Read about their

experience!

Inside the Issue

Did you participate in Five Hour Free (from Social Media) Friday on March 1st? Read about Teens and Social Media Use and commit to reducing your social media time.











THE ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY
YOUTH BUREAU'S
4TH ANNUAL
TRASH DASH

APRIL 27-28 2024

Details coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE

27-28 St. Lawrence County



The St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau announces

MODERN YOUTH **LEADERSHIP**



About the Workshop

Young people everywhere are demanding new norms, seeking new opportunities and preparing us for a new way of being that has never been seen before. **This is Modern Youth Leadership.** In many cases, the adults who support young people don't know where to go, how to behave or what to do. In this hands-on, engaging workshop participants identify what the current landscape is and how our programs and organizations can responsibly, and effectively,

Adam F.C. Fletcher facilitates this workshop for all adults, including youth workers, organizational leaders, parents and educators who want to engage young people today, but need new learning, new thinking and new ways to make connections. As the leader of the Freechild Institute for Youth Engagement for more than 20 years, through dynamic research and practice, Adam has found powerful patterns, created meaningful tools, and launched

etcher's 2023 book, **Steps to Youth Leadership in Modern Times**, will be used as a guide and

- participants will learn about: o Authentic youth voice o Effective youth programs o Infusing youth leaders
- o Empowering new change

Participants will leave inspired, empowered, and ready to take action in their programs organizations and communities. Learn how to make space, create opportunities, and effectively infuse Modern Youth Leadership every day.





REGISTER TODAY

Open for 20 Attendees

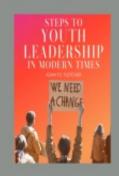
- . Free to attend thanks to grant funding from The Association of New York State Youth Bureaus
- Each attendee receives a copy of Fletcher's book Steps to Youth Leadership in Modern Times

CLICK HERE

Sponsored by:

Youth Bureaus and

The St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau





FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A SUCCESSFUL VALENTINE'S DAY

Some Card Contibutors:

Canton Middle & High School FACS students

CARD DRIVE 2024!

- Citizens Advocate
- Claxton Hepburn
- Gouverneur High School
- Jolly Ranchers 4-H Club
- Little River Community School
- The Arc Massena Day Hab
- JW Leary Jr High-Massena
- Madison Elementary, Massena
- John F. Kennedy Elementary,
 Ogdensburg
 AYAYAY



Youth as Solutions

The Youth Committee's initiative, Five Hour Free (from Social Media) Friday was a success due to the support of Youth as Solutions with National Youth Leadership Council and the hard work of Teen Ambassadors, Anant Bansal, Zoe McLean, and Prudence Cutwa who serve as Team Leaders for Youth as Solutions.

Youth as Solutions provided monthly training for our three Ambassadors and Youth Bureau Director, Alexa Chase. During the monthly virtual check-ins, we met other Youth as Solutions partners and teens representing schools and organizations throughout the US.





During the monthly check-in meetings, our Ambassadors (Team Leaders) learned how to complete a teen-led community service project based on meeting the needs in our local community. They've also learned about the Student Service Learning Cycle using the IPARD method. (Investigation, Planning & Preparation, Action, Reflection, Demonstration)

Our Teen Ambassadors also received a \$500 grant from Youth as Solutions which helped pay for advertising costs and magnets which were distributed to area schools prior to Five Hour Free Friday.

Our Ambassadors will be working on a 3 minute video as a wrap up summary of Five Hour Free Friday.

Youth as Solutions can be found on Facebook @National Youth Leadership Council and on Instagram @nylcorg. (Click on each icon to view their social media platforms.)

For more information, click here for their website: CLICK HERE

St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau now recruiting Teen Ambassadors

from the following schools:

- Canton
- Clifton-Fine
- Madrid-Waddington
- Gouverneur
- Harrisville

- Hammond
- Hermon-DeKalb
- Heuvelton
- Lisbon

- Ogdensburg
- St. Lawrence Central
- Massena
- Parishville-Hopkinton

Why become a Teen Ambassador?:

- Learn about important issues impacting our communities
- Develop a stronger skill set when dealing with tough topics such as teen suicide prevention
- Receive annual QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training
- Gain leadership skills
- Learn about county government & the legislative process
- Complete community service projects
- Have exposure to career paths within local government
- Gain confidence and motivation
- · Feel empowered and have a voice
- Build peer to peer relationships
- Gain public speaking experience (Interviews!)
- Annual trip to Albany for Legislative Day
 Youth Leadership Forum
- · Be part of a team and make new friends



SCAN ME



Students 8th-11th grades
APPLY TODAY!

Contact Alexa Chase AChase@stlawco.gov 315.379.9464

2024 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM AND LEGISLATIVE DAY

Albany, New York February 5-6, 2024

Monday, February 5th Youth Leadership Forum "Champions of Change: Empowering the Next Generation of Advocates

SLC Teen Ambassadors in attendance:

- · Anant Bansal, Potsdam Central
- · Anya Bansal, Potsdam Central
- · Elif Cetinkaya, Potsdam Central
- · Prudence Cutwa, Lisbon Central
- Angiolina Hukovic, Morristown Central
- · Emalyn Kulp, Gouverneur Central
- · Taha Ait Maatallah, Potsdam Central
- · Zoe McLean, Colton-Pierrepont Central

Monday's Workshops:

- Exploring Relationships Around You and How to Promote Healthy Ones
- Soulful Connections: Harnessing Empathy & Energy
- Advocacy 101: Empowering Individuals with skills and knowledge to become most effective advocates

Tuesday, February 6th Legislative Day Meetings:

- · Senator Dan Stec
- · Assemblyman Scott Gray

Topics of Discussion:

- Add \$3 million, above what was appropriated in the Executive Budget, for the Youth Development Program (YDP), a critical funding stream that allows Youth Bureaus and community-based organizations across the state to provide services to over 1.3 million youth annually.
- Add \$10 million for the Statewide Youth Teams Sports Funding.
 Last year's budget created a new program to increase statewide
 youth team sports which was administered by Youth Bureaus in
 every county across New York state. Sports positively affect
 aspects of personal development among youth such as selfesteem, goal setting, and leadership skills. Also, sports programs
 address mental health challenges, obesity prevention and overall
 wellness.
- Maintain funding of \$200,000 for the NYS Youth Council. ANYSYB receives a grant through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to assist in the administration of this Council which has proven positive for New York's youth serving members.
- Impact of Social Media use on teens and Five Hr. Free (from Social media) on Friday, March 1st 4 to 9 pm.











Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

The Cornerstane of New York's Youth Development!











2024 Annual Youth Leadership Forum

Albany, New York February 5th and 6th

Eight St. Lawrence County Teen Ambassadors joined the Youth Bureau at this year's Annual Youth Leadership Forum at the State's Capital:

- Anant Bansal, Potsdam Central
- Anya Bansal, Potsdam Central
- Elif Cetinkaya, Potsdam Central
- Prudence Cutwa, Lisbon Central
- Angiolina Hukovic, Morristown Central
- Emalyn Kulp, Gouverneur Central
- Taha Ait Maatallah, Potsdam Central
- Zoe McLean, Colton-Pierrepont Central



Ambassador's feedback:

"I had an exceptional experience at Albany. It was a great honor to meet our Senator Daniel G. Stec and Assemblyman Scott Gray. As the youngest of the group, I felt so lucky to have this experience. I was able to listen and really understand some ongoing issues in our society. Overall, I wish to keep doing this every year!"

-Anya Bansal, Potsdam Central

"We attended workshops about advocacy, healthy relationships, and mental health. The second day, we met with Senator Stec and Assemblyman Gray and discussed continued funding for Youth Bureaus around the state. It was a great experience for me and my peers and a great bonding experience for the youth ambassadors."

-Prudence Cutwa, Lisbon Central

"I learned how state senators' meetings worked with organizations vouching for their needs and what needs to occur (in this dialogue) for the desired result. There has to be advocating with a mix of friendly dialogue. I'm grateful for those meetings and this opportunity."

-Zoe McLean, Colton Pierrepont Central

"I had a great time during the Youth Bureau's trip to Albany.

During the workshops, I got to experience different perspectives on mental health and relationships, and learned a lot about advocacy as well. I also had an enjoyable time participating during the Trivia evening!

On the second day, we met with Senator Stec and Assemblyman Gray. We discussed youth as leaders and the implementation of youth in leadership roles, the lack thereof in many places, and how to focus on getting more youth leadership roles in the future. Thank you for letting us go on this trip!"

-Taha Ait Maatallah, Potsdam Central



TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE: WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

Article published on January, 18, 2024 by staff members at Mayo Clinic. To view:

Click Here

Social media is a term for internet sites and apps that you can use to share content you've created. Social media also lets you respond to content that others post. That can include pictures, text, reactions or comments on posts by others, and links to information.

Online sharing within social media sites helps many people stay in touch with friends or connect with new ones. And that may be more important for teenagers than other age groups. Friendships help teens feel supported and play a role in forming their identities. So, it's only natural to wonder how social media use might affect teens.

Social media is a big part of daily life for lots of teenagers. How big? A 2022 survey of 13- to 17-year-olds offers a clue. Based on about 1,300 responses, the survey found that 35% of teens use at least one of five social media platforms more than several times a day. The five social media platforms are: YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.





Social media doesn't affect all teens the same way. Use of social media is linked with healthy and unhealthy effects on mental health. These effects vary from one teenager to another. Social media effects on mental health depend on things such as:

- What a teen sees and does online.
- The amount of time spent online
- Psychological factors, such as maturity level and any preexisting mental health conditions.
- Personal life circumstances, including cultural, social and economic factors.



Here are the general pros and cons of teen social media use, along with tips for parents.

Healthy Social Media

Social media lets teens create online identities, chat with others and build social networks. These networks can provide teens with support from other people who have hobbies or experiences in common.

This type of support especially may help teens who:

- Lack social support offline or are lonely.
- Are going through a stressful time.
- Belong to groups that often get marginalized, such as racial minorities, the LGBTQ community and those who are differently abled.
- Have long-term medical conditions.

Sometimes, social media platforms help teens:

- · Express themselves.
- Connect with other teens locally and across long distances.
- Learn how other teens cope with challenging life situations and mental health conditions.
- View or take part in moderated chat forums that encourage talking openly about topics such as mental health.
- Ask for help or seek healthcare for symptoms of mental health conditions.

These healthy effects of social media can help teens in general.

They also may help teens who are prone to depression stay connected to others. And social media that's humorous or distracting may help a struggling teen cope with a challenging day.

Unhealthy Social Media

Social media use may have negative effects on some teens. It might:

- Distract from homework, exercise and family activities.
- Disrupt sleep.
- Lead to information that is biased or not correct.
- Become a means to spread rumors or share too much personal information.
- Lead some teens to form views about other people's lives or bodies that aren't realistic.
- . Expose some teens to online predators, who might try to exploit or extort them.
- Expose some teens to cyberbullying, which can raise the risk of mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

What's more, certain content related to risk-taking, and negative posts or interactions on social media, have been linked with self-harm and rarely, death.

The risks of social media use are linked with various factors. One may be how much time teens spend on these platforms. In a study focusing on 12- to 15-year-olds in the United States, spending three hours a day using social media was linked to a higher risk of mental health concerns. That study was based on data collected in 2013 and 2014 from more than 6,500 participants.

Another study looked at data on more than 12,000 teens in England between the ages of 13 to 16. The researchers found that using social media more than three times a day predicted poor mental health and well-being in teens.

But not all research has found a link between time spent on social media and mental health risks in teens. How teens use social media also might determine its impact. For instance, viewing certain types of content may raise some teens' mental health risks. This could include content that depicts:

- Illegal acts.
- Self-harm or harm to other people.
- Encouragement of habits tied to eating disorders, such as purging or restrictive eating.

These types of content may be even more risky for teens who already have a mental health condition. Being exposed to discrimination, hate or cyberbullying on social media also can raise the risk of anxiety or depression.

What teens share about themselves on social media also matters. With the teenage brain, it's common to make a choice before thinking it through. So, teens might post something when they're angry or upset, and regret it later. That's known as stress posting. Teens who post content also are at risk of sharing sexual photos or highly personal stories. This can lead to teens being bullied, harassed or even blackmailed.



Protecting Your Teen

You can take steps to help your teens use social media responsibly and limit some of the possible negative effects. Use these tips:

- Set rules and limits as needed. This helps prevent social media from getting in the way of
 activities, sleep, meals or homework. For example, you could make a rule about not using
 social media until homework is done. Or you could set a daily time limit for social media use.
 You also could choose to keep social media off-limits during certain times. These times
 might include during family meals and an hour before bed. Set an example by following
 these rules yourself. And let your teen know what the consequences will be if your rules
 aren't followed.
- Manage any challenging behaviors. If your teen's social media use starts to challenge your rules or your sense of what's appropriate, talk with your teen about it. You also could connect with parents of your teen's friends or take a look at your teen's internet history.
- Turn on privacy settings. This can help keep your teen from sharing personal information or data that your teen didn't mean to share. Each of your teen's social media accounts likely has privacy setting that can be changed.
- Monitor your teen's accounts. The American Psychological Association recommends you
 regularly review your child's social media use during the early teen years. One way to
 monitor is to follow or "friend" your child's social accounts. As your teen gets older, you can
 choose to monitor your teen's social media less. Your teen's maturity level can help guide
 your decision.
- Have regular talks with your teen about social media. These talks give you chances to ask
 how social media has been making your teen feel. Encourage your teen to let you know if
 something online worries or bothers your teen. Regular talks offer you chances to give your
 child advice about social media too. For example, you can teach your teen to question
 whether content is accurate. You also can explain that social media is full of images about
 beauty and lifestyle that are not realistic.
- Be a role model for your teen. You might want to tell your child about your own social media
 habits. That can help you set a good example and keep your regular talks from being onesided.
- Explain what's not OK. Remind your teen that it's hurtful to gossip, spread rumors, bully or harm someone's reputation — online or otherwise. Also remind your teen not to share personal information with strangers online. This includes people's addresses, telephone numbers, passwords, and bank or credit card numbers.
- Encourage face-to-face contact with friends. This is even more important for teens prone to social anxiety. Talk to your child's healthcare professional if you think your teen has symptoms of anxiety, depression or other mental health concerns related to social media use. Also talk with your child's care professional if your teen has any of the following symptoms:
 - Uses social media even when wanting to stop.
 - Uses it so much that school, sleep, activities or relationships suffer.
 - o Often spends more time on social platforms than you intended.
 - · Lies in order to use social media.

Your teen might be referred to a mental healthcare professional who can help.

JOIN THE

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH **ADVISORY BOARD**

Advocate for positive change in your community & throughout New York State!

The Youth Mental Health Advisory Board (YMHAB) plays a crucial role in informing policies for the Office of Mental Health, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and advising the Governor. Your voice matters, and we are dedicated to empowering young people to make a difference!

Requirements:

Middle or High School student interested in mental health,

Middle of Algrischool stadent interested in The Ital Health including with lived experience
 Application Process: Fill out the application for the Youth Mental Health Advisory Board (YMHAB)
 Commitment: Attend at least 4 meetings per year, 2 of which will be in-person in Albany (compensation, travel, hotel, meals covered).



Check out the PAL video below to learn all the ways that your continued support is helping us to help the kids of our community.



Healthy Shamrock Shake

A better option over the fast food mint shake!

SIMPLE RECIPE

Ingredients

- · 1 cup ice
- 1/2 frozen medium banana
- 1/2 cup plain or vanilla Greek yogurt
- · 2 cups baby spinach
- 4 fresh mint leaves (or 1/4 tsp. peppermint extract)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup milk any kind or non-dairy alternative

Optional additions

- 1/8 teaspoon xanthan gum helps thicken the shake
- additional sweetener of choice maple syrup, honey, sugar, stevia, monk fruit,
 5 medjool dates
- · whipped cream for topping
- cacao nibs/reduced sugar or sugar free chocolate chips for topping

Directions

- Add all ingredients to a high-powered blender in the order listed, including xanthan gum if using.
- · Blend until smooth.
- Pour into glass and top with whipped cream and/or cacao nibs/chocolate chips if desired.

Notes

For more of a shake consistency/taste, substitute reduced sugar vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt.

Nutrition

Serving Size-One | Calories: 451kcal | Carbohydrates:

54g | Protein: 25g | Fat: 16g | Saturated Fat: 4g |

Polyunsaturated Fat: 10g | Cholesterol: 25mg | Sodium:

349mg | Fiber: 8g | Sugar: 13g



Nurture with

For parents/guardians wanting to provide nutritious and engaging mealtimes for their families. Join us for six "how-to" sessions to gain confidence in nourishing your households.

Thursdays at 4:30pm starting February 15th-March 21st

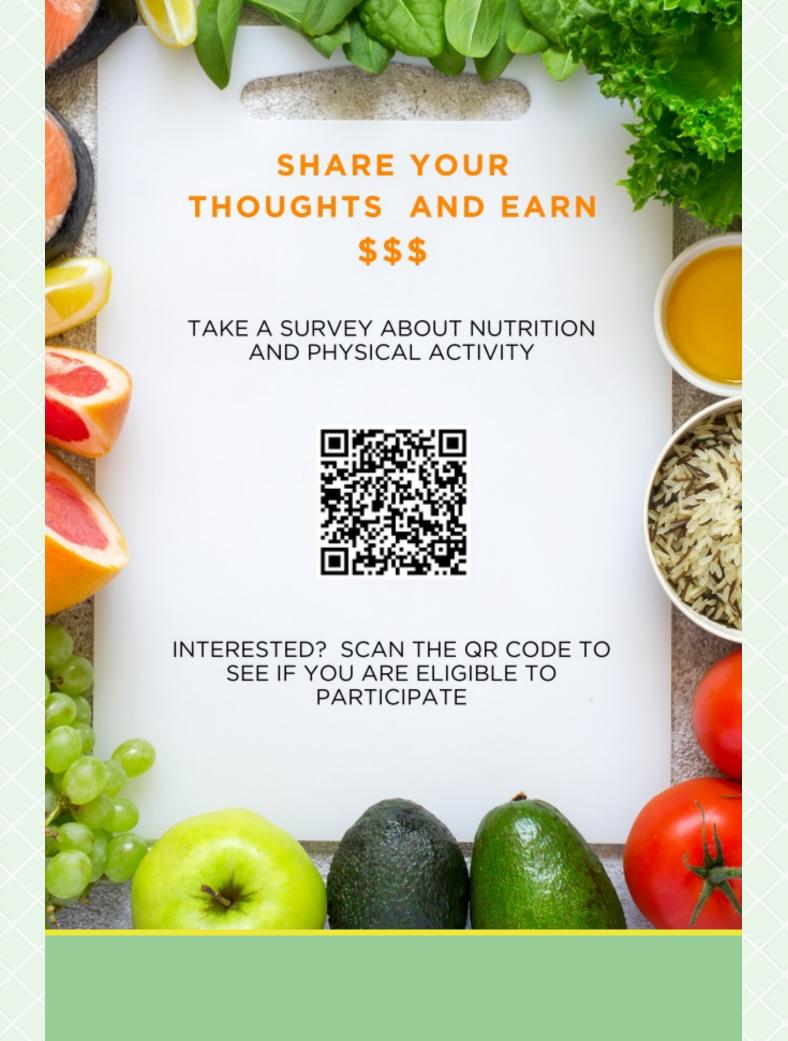


Diabetes Conference Room Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center 214 King St., Ogd. NY, 13669



QUESTIONS? CONTACT KRISTINE 315-379-9192 EXT. 222 KAD286@CORNELL.EDU

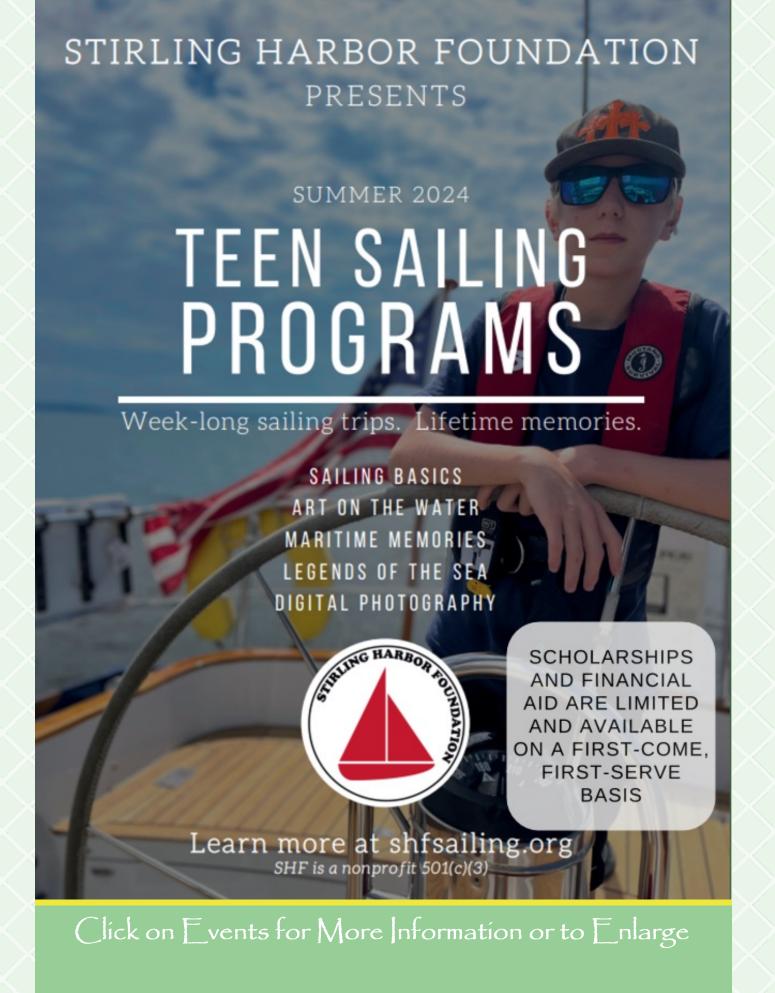
aterial was funded by USDA's S<mark>up</mark>plem<mark>en</mark>tal Nu<mark>tr</mark>ition Assistance Program - SNAP. This institution is an equal oppor<mark>tunity provider.</mark> Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County office if you require accommodations.



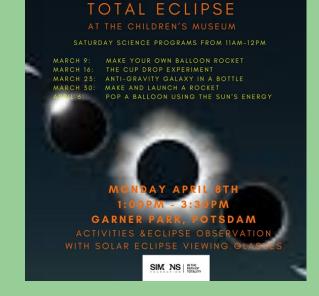


Writing Workshop Opportunity

If your organization, public library, or school would like to sponsor a writing workshop, please contact the Youth Bureau at rzuhlsdorf@stlawco.gov or call 315.379.9464. We have a skilled writer who has offered her time and talent!









North Country

4TH ANNUAL NORTH COUNTRY KIDS EXPO SATURDAY MARCH 16TH **SUNY CANTON ROOS HOUSE**

BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR A DAY OF PLAY AND LEARN ABOUT ALL OF THE GREAT WAYS TO ENJOY AND ENTERTAIN YOUR FAMILY THROUGHOUT THE

YEAR IN THE NORTH COUNTRY!

THE EXPO IS A DAY OF FUN DAY FOR FAMILIES WITH PLAY ZONES, EXHIBITS, DEMONSTRATIONS, VENDORS, AND SPECIAL INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT! EXPERTS AND REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SHARE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ON AREA OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES, FROM HEALTH CARE, TO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, TO REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS. A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS AND

ADMISSION: KIDS (12 AND UNDER) FREE \$5 ADMISSION FOR 13 AND OLDER (CASH ONLY)

GUARDIANS TO LEARN WHILE KIDS PLAY!









WHY CHOOSE ICAM?

Explore Your Options

ICAM helps you explore a wide range of healthcare careers based on your skills and

ICAM provides the tools and resources to discover your unique career journey.

Find Opportunities

Discover local, regional, and statewide experiential programs, training opportunities, and potential employers.

Expert Guidance

Get guidance from experienced career guides and mentors in your field of interest.



THESE ARE ALL JOBS IN HEALTHCARE Engineers Tech Support

- Accounting
- Housekeeping
- Athletic Training
- Cooks
- Drivers
- Mechanics
 - Administrators
- Lab Technician Medical Illustrators
- Art Therapist
- Environmentalist
- Communications
 Carpenter

ENROLL IN ICAM FOR FREE > Don't miss out on the chance to join an exclusive

institute that provides incentives, opportunities, privileges, and community.







Good morning! We hope you've had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the year! WPBS-TV is starting out with a new date for our annual children's literacy festival, Ready Set FUN! This year, our flagship event will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Salmon Run Mall from 10am to 2pm. The theme will be Silly Summer Sun! so start thinking up great ways to celebrate the summer during a chilly March day! The application will be sent out later this month.

Individual insurance will be required for each participating vendor, per Salmon Run Mall.

We hope you'll join us for a great day of community, education and fun!

Ogdensburg Public Library March 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Closed	4	Music and Movement 11:00 am	6	Story Time 11:00 am	8	9 Closed
Closed	11	Music and Movement 11:00 am	Trap a Leprechaun 5:00 pm	Story Time 11:00 am	15 St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt 3:00 pm-4:45 pm	16 Celtic Dreams: A collection of musical performances 7:00 pm Tickets \$10
17 Celtic Dreams: A collection of musical performances 3:00 pm Tickets \$10	18	Music and Movement 11:00 am	Lego Free Play 5:00 pm	Story Time 11:00 am	22	Closed
Closed	25	Music and Movement 11:00 am Eclipse Lecture 2:30 pm	Pinhole Camera 5:00 pm	Story Time 11:00 am	Closing at Noon for Good Friday	Closed

Music and Movement

A preschool movement class for socialization and learning!

Ages 18m-5

Tuesdays @ 11:00 am

Take Home Crafts

Take and make crafts available for pickup at the front desk.

Monday-Friday All Month

Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt

4 and up

Search the library for clues to solve a break in.

March 15 3:00 pm—4:45 pm

Story Time

Stories, songs, crafts and activities.
Ages 2-5

Thursdays @ 11:00 am

Trap a Leprechaun

5 and up

Make a trap to catch a leprechaun.

March 13 @ 5:00 pm

Eclipse Lecture

Adult

Dr. Benjamin Roulston Clarkson Professor and PhD in Astronomy will speak about the upcoming eclipse.

March 26 @ 2:30 pm

315-393-4325



March 13 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

How to Foster and Support Self-Determination in All Students

Self-Determination is a research-based predictor of post-school success in the areas of education, employment, and independent living. The purpose of this training is to foster and support the development of self-determination skills for students of all ages utilizing a collaborative school and family approach. It provides participants with foundational concepts, resources, and strategies to implement and incorporate practices that promote the development of self-determination throughout a student's day and across all ages.

Signup



March 19 | 4:00-6:30 PM

Student Involvement with the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Families

To promote and encourage student and family involvement in the IEP development process and Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings. Tools, resources, and research-based content are embedded throughout the training. Group participation and interaction from families will be encouraged.

(This session is presented in collaboration with the North Country RPC.)

Signup

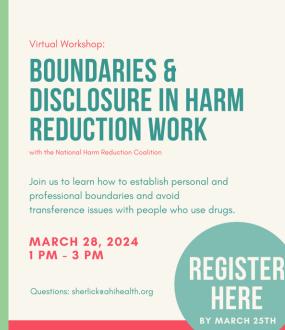


March 28 | 4:00-6:00 PM

New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA): Essential Information for Families of Students with Disabilities

The purpose of this training is to educate families of students with disabilities on the essential information of NYSAA including, what NYSAA is, what the test entails, and how it will affect a student's postsecondary planning. Additionally, the training will review all state assessment options, the eligibility and decision-making process, and graduation/student exit options.

Signup





















SLC Youth Bureau | 80 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 13617 315-379-9464

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