

**Otsego County Youth Bureau
and
Youth Board**

**2006
Program Information Guide**

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YOUTH BUREAU and YOUTH BOARD

www.otsegocounty.com/youthbureau

The Otsego County Youth Bureau administers programs with funding provided by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (formerly Division for Youth). The Youth Bureau has been an Otsego County department since 1979. The Board of Representatives provides matching funds to support program administration and provides oversight through the Administration Committee and the Youth Board.

We are living in a time when the youth of this country urgently need love, attention and direction. With the right start in life, a child can grow physically, emotionally and mentally. Programs funded help make it possible for babies to be born healthy amidst a loving, well adjusted family. If family problems arise, there are programs that will help out, whether it is drugs, alcohol or violence. Communities sponsor well-organized recreation programs for their residents. Here in Otsego County, the Youth Bureau and Youth Board is trying to make a difference.

YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS AND YOUTH BUREAU STAFF

Vera Sosnowski, Chair
Michael Nelson, Vice-Chair
Kathy De Jong
John D. Higgins
Donald Mundy
Joan Van Valkenburg
James Rickard III
Charles Christman
Beverly Murch
Jackie Hinckley
Steven Andrews
Joseph Stepp
Victor Ronovech, Director
Corinne Pollak, Keyboard Spec.

In the following pages, we will take you through the funded programs that offer the youth an opportunity to grow and mature mentally, emotionally and physically to adulthood.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL and DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

www.ofoinc.org

Sponsoring Agency: Opportunities for Otsego

Contact Person: Nancy Court – Phone: (607)433-8028

The goal of the Violence Intervention Program is to provide individual and group counseling, information and referrals, shelter, advocacy and accompaniment, 24-hour hotline service, crime victims' compensation assistance and education to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Quality services are provided to adults and children needing counseling, advocacy, and support in dealing with the traumatic issues that affect their lives. All services are free and confidential.

The Violence Intervention Program maintains working relationships with many community organizations. The Violence Intervention program hosts a multi-disciplinary task force to deal with the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Training is provided to law enforcement officials, medical personnel, teachers, human service agencies, clergy and community groups on the issues of child victims. Representatives from these groups also assist the program in providing training to staff and volunteers.

The Program's Outreach Education component makes presentations to elementary, middle school and high schools in school districts in Otsego County as well as students attending both colleges. Topics include healthy versus unhealthy relationships, date rape, sexual assault, incest, sexual harassment, personal safety skills, date rape drugs and the availability of community resources. The Outreach Education component also organizes the annual Take Back the Night march in Oneonta.

The program also receives funds from other sources, some are:

- New York State Department of Social Services Federal Family Violence Prevention Program to assist rural domestic violence victims with safe dwellings.
- Crime Victims Board to provide advocacy to victims of crime.
- United Way of Delaware & Otsego Counties for domestic violence shelter and sexual assault counseling.

COMMUNITY MATERNITY SERVICES of OTSEGO COUNTY

www.cccms.com

Sponsoring agency: Catholic Charities – Albany Diocese

Program Director: Gen Overholt – Phone: 518-295-6100

CMS Caseworker: Beth Dolan – Phone: (607) 432-9314

The Community Maternity Services, (a member agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany), provides home-based support services to families and their children in Otsego County since 1971.

Services to Pregnant and/or Parenting Adolescents may include: Goal directed counseling, Childbirth preparation; Referral for pre/post natal care, Nutrition education, Advocacy for education, home based Parent Education, Residential care and Adoption services.

Services to families affected by HIV/AIDS: CMS provides home based services to families or caregivers affected by HIV/AIDS. This program is funded through the New York State Aids Institute. These services may include: Permanency Planning and Legal Services, Emergency Assistance, Parent Education, Making Memories and Therapeutic Recreation. These service are also home based.

Services are free and confidential, and are provided to families throughout Otsego County, either by self or agency referral.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

www.leafinc.org

Sponsoring Agency: LEAF Council on Alcoholism/Addictions, Inc.

Contact Person: Victoria Wasiel (607) 432-0090

“Life Skills Training” is a comprehensive, research and outcome based prevention program that emphasizes proven skills training methods. It addresses all of the most important factors leading adolescents to use one or more drugs by teaching a combination of health information, general *Life Skills*, and drug resistance skills over a three year time period. The program is presented to the same students over three years. The first year’s curriculum is presented in 15 sessions, second in 10 and the third in 5.

This program addresses all of the most important factors leading to adolescent use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Its goal is to reduce a variety of risk factors and provide skill that will reduce ATOD use in Young adolescents. With fidelity of implementation, Life Skills Training Program has been shown to reduce tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use by up to 75%.

D.A.R.E. OFFICER (DRUG, ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION)

Sponsoring Agency: Oneonta Police Department

Contact Person: Steve Havens, DARE Officer Phone: (607) 432-1111

The Oneonta Police Department, DARE Officer position has been created to address the growing problem of adolescent drug use and abuse. The DARE officer is trained and certified by the NYS Dept. of Criminal Justice and serves as an officer trained to teach children drug abuse resistance education. This involves a 17-week in-school training course. The D.A.R.E. Officer instructs the curriculum through lessons lasting 45 minutes per week. The curriculum is designed to target elementary school children who are in the fifth and sixth grade. In doing so, they reach the children at a most impressionable age, addressing the issue of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use before most children have had their first experience with drugs. Employing a variety of activity-oriented

techniques, drug resistance lessons are taught to students through group discussions, role-playing, and a healthy exchange of ideas and feelings.

The D.A.R.E. Officer has direct contact with students of the elementary schools in Oneonta, Laurens, Morris, Schenevus, St. Mary's (Oneonta), Unadilla, Community Christian School (Oneonta) and Edmeston. The program actively encourages the involvement of the students' parents, school officials, educators, community and civic and fraternal organizations. Through just the basic curriculum, over 450 students in the above mentioned elementary schools are directly involved in the D.A.R.E. program and with the Oneonta Police Department yearly.

The outcomes of the program are a reduction in the supply of controlled substances as a result of reduced demand; a more positive identification of Police Officers by children and improved decision making by children in all life situations.

OTSEGO COUNTY YOUTH COURT

Sponsoring Agency: Otsego County Sheriff's Department

Program Director: Donald Mundy, Sheriff

Contact Person: Skip Beijen, Youth Court Coordinator-432-4181

The Otsego County Youth Court was begun in the fall of 1998, initiated by the Otsego County Youth Board. Members of Otsego County Youth Court are students in county school districts. All have received the Youth Court training and have passed a Bar Exam. The Youth Court Coordinator, County Judge Michael Cocomma, Public Defender Otto Rothermel, District Attorney John Muehl and others provide training.

The Otsego County Youth Court is designed as a diversion program from the Family Court system. The main objective of the Otsego County Youth is to impact youth behavior through using errant Youth's peers as the judgmental body that judges them on violations of the law that the youth is accused of committing. The Otsego County Youth Court is designed to hear Juvenile misdemeanor and violation cases that would otherwise be sent to the Otsego county Family Court. Referrals to the Youth Court are made by the Otsego County Probation Department. All Youth Court positions, Judges, Defense Attorneys, prosecuting Attorneys, Bailiff and Court Clerk are positions filled by Youth Court members that are between the ages of 13 and 20. The Youth Court is judgment by peers. Prior to becoming a member of the Otsego County Youth Court prospective members are required to go through a training program and pass a BAR exam.

The Otsego County Youth Court is operated under the Otsego County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Donald Mundy is the Executive Director of the Otsego County Youth Court. Skip Beijen is the Youth Court Coordinator.

An Executive Committee oversees the operation, rules and regulation. Membership of this Committee consists of the entire Otsego County Youth Board. A Steering Committee oversees the day-by-day operation of the Otsego

County Youth Court. The body of this committee consists of three adults and four Youth members of the Youth Court. This committee is also responsible for disciplinary action regarding members of the court.

PARENTING RESOURCE CENTER

Sponsoring Agency: Family Services Association, Inc.

Contact Person: Mary O'Connor -Phone: (607)432-2870

The Parenting Resource Center provides services addressing needs for parenting skills through education and training courses, which are offered throughout the year. Through the Community Parenting group, it coordinates and provides continuous literacy and referral services. A calendar of scheduled parenting workshops is provided and additional family activities are provided to support family needs in these areas.

TOWN OF LAURENS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Sponsoring Municipality: Town of Laurens

Contact Person: Oscar Oberkircher, Town Supervisor – 433-2518.

The overall purpose of the Laurens Youth Employment Program is to provide a summer work experience to youth ages 14-18. Young people work at several locations around the town learning about carpentry, stone masonry, trail building, landscaping, and general maintenance. The workweek in the summer months is twenty hours, four hours per day, Monday thru Friday. The program focuses on helping youth obtain lifelong skills and productive employment.

THE ZONE

www.rszone.org

Sponsoring Agency: Richfield Springs Youth Ministry, Inc.

Contact Person: Larry Kroon, President – Phone (315) 858-0857

The ZONE was created through a cooperative effort from youth, churches, business, adults and Richfield Springs Central School. It is a Youth Center where people can participate in indoor games and activities in a safe environment. Special activities are arranged at the school and field trips are planned by the youth and mentors.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Recreation Programs, which are offered and operated during July and August by most communities, are a wealth of learning skills for children in Otsego County. They provide sportsmanship, swimming, and preparation for school, lasting friendships and social skills. They promote youth development and lessen delinquent activity. These programs also offer youth an opportunity to learn life-long interests, individual responsibility and personal growth.

They are excellent programs. Listed here are those partially funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Otsego County Board of Representatives, and Otsego County Youth Board and Youth Bureau.

CITY OF ONEONTA YOUTH RECREATION

www.oneonta.ny.us/fun

Sponsoring Agency: Oneonta City Recreation Dept.

Contact Person: Steven Andrews, Director

Phone: (607)432-0680

This program serves youth in Oneonta with year-round wholesome recreational as well as educational activities. Supervision and instruction are provided by trained and certified lifeguards, attendants and instructors. Playground activities offered are baseball, aquatics held at Wilber and Neahwa Parks, softball, tennis and ice-skating. All other activities are held within the Oneonta Public School properties. Oneonta Kiwanis, Rotary and Lion's Clubs provide shirts and caps for 5-12 year old participants in the youth baseball and softball program.

EDMESTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Edmeston

Program Director: Monica Clark

Town Clerk Phone: (607)965-9823

The Town of Edmeston owns and supervises the pool, in which the youths of both towns swim. Swimming lessons are taught using the American Red Cross courses and instructors. Playground programs include sports (team and individual), Arts and Crafts and computer learning games for all children ages 4-17. Pony League and Little League are also provided.

GILBERTSVILLE SUMMER RECREATION

Sponsoring Municipality: Town of Butternuts

Program Director: Donna Taylor

Phone: (607)783-2733

The Village of Gilbertsville/Town of Butternuts operates the four-week recreation program (K-6) at the village location utilizing the pavilion, the Gilbertsville School and playground area. It offers field trips, arts and crafts and works to fill the need of developing athletic skills (team and individual) among the youth who participate. A swimming program is provided at Gilbert Lake in Laurens. The summer recreation committee graciously receives donations of supplies to help its arts and crafts.

TOWN OF WORCESTER RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Worcester and Town of Decatur

Contact Person: John Selover

Phone: (607) 397-8785

The Recreation Program is educationally and recreationally planned, with arts and crafts, computer, and remedial academic instruction in classrooms. Red Cross swimming lessons are given with free swimming for all at the pool. Individual and team athletics are provided at the town playground.

UNADILLA RECREATION

www.townofunadilla.stny.rr.com

Sponsoring Agency: Unadilla Recreation Commission

Contact Person: Diane Hendee

Program Director: Marcella Mason

Phone – Town of Unadilla – 607-369-7426.

The Recreation Program offers many activities, which include games (group and individual) at the playground and Arts and Crafts four mornings a week. The leader in popularity is the swimming program, where many youngsters are taught skills as outlined by the American Red Cross. Each day has an innovated and special activity, such as New Year's Day, T-Shirt Day; Jump Rope Olympics, Basketball, Baseball, Hat Day, 100 Yard Dash, Valentine's Day, Shorts Day, Halloween Day; Crazy Sneaker Day; Field Day; Christmas, Sunglasses Day, Dam Building Contest, Field Hockey Day, Birthday Party Day, Softball Throw Olympics and Free Day.

VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Village of Cooperstown & Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (C.R.O.P.)

Recreation Site Coordinator: Rosemary Brodersen

Phone: (607)-547-4436

C.R.O.P.: Betsy Morcom; 26 Walnut St., Cooperstown, NY; 436-3247

This program provides group activities for kindergarten – 8th grades which develop character education, academic enrichment and local walking/ bus field trips into the community. Activities include swimming instructions at Clark Gymnasium, indoor and outdoor games, and art and crafts. C.R.O.P. is state-funded until 2008-09. Transportation is offered home between 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. for those who request it. Breakfast is provided.

TOWN OF ONEONTA RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Oneonta

Program Director: Julie A. Cook

Phone: (607)432-2900

The town pool offers swimming lessons to area youths for 5 weeks during the summer. At the closure of lessons, family members attend an annual Water Show at the Town Pool. Youths and their instructors share their new skills with families. The evening ends with a dessert celebration.

TOWN OF MORRIS COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Morris
Contact Person: Peter McCann, Town Supervisor
Phone: 263-5057

This program serves youths with sports and games. Recreational and instructional swimming are held at Gilbert Lake State Park, with Morris Central School providing the transportation. All kinds of team and individual athletics and group and individual games are offered to youth ages 5-15. The goal of the program is to improve youth commitment to conventional activities and to provide youths with skills in athletics and teamwork; social interaction; individual responsibility and personal growth.

VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD SPRINGS YOUTH PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Village of Richfield Springs
Contact Person: Robert Buck, Village Clerk
Phone: 315-858-1710

This program is held at the Richfield Springs School and at Bakers Beach on Canadarago Lake (Schuyler Lake). It provides the youth with structured sports and playground activities. Included in the activities are bowling, and food for fitness, crafts and movies. Pet shows, talent shows and trips to Glimmerglass State Park and Enchanted Forest, children's' Museum are also provided.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD RECREATION

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Springfield
Contact Person: Thomas Armstrong, Town Supervisor
Phone: 315-858-0895

This recreation program serves youths with swimming instruction, arts and crafts, baseball, and fall soccer, basketball and girls softball.

SCHENEVUS/MARYLAND RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Maryland
Contact Person: Marjorie French, Town Supervisor
Phone: (607)638-5525
Program Director: Deborah Mason

The swimming program is held at Schenevus Lake. Pony League is held at the school.

MILFORD RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Milford Recreation Commission
Contact Person: Tom Gale, Town Supervisor
Phone: 607- 286-9033

Youth from the Milford area are beneficiaries of many unusual activities such as ROCK DAY, CHRISTMAS IN JULY, SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK, FUNNY OLYMPICS, hat and make-up day plus the annual picnic, which is always a big highlight. The Arts and Crafts Program is always filled, resulting in many items that the children can take home. Each day, some children go to the Clark Gymnasium for 30 minutes of swimming instruction plus 10 minutes of free swim. Organized activities and games, including whiffleball, kickball, tennis, basketball, soccer, softball, badminton, jump rope and others are provided. The Upstate Home for Children is also a part of this program. A day of horse rides has been inserted and is operated by Bobs Conveyance-wagons. Animal control includes petting the horses. Weekly programs and activities are done and distributed weekly. Program transportation includes swimming and home and return pickup by Milford Central School by contracts. The increased number of lower age children has made an increase in staff, now ten in number.

MIDDLEFIELD RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Town of Middlefield
Program Director: Charlotte Hoag
Phone: (607)547-2821

This program provides Minor and Major League Baseball to Middlefield youths, ages 7-13, and is held at the Middlefield ball field. Community soccer practice is open to all ages and also held at the ball field. During the summer, there is a recreational night on Tuesday.

OTEGO YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM

Sponsoring Agency: Village & Town Youth Recreation Commission
Program Director: Angie Mowers, Director
Phone: (607)988-2698

This program serves healthy youths of Otego with recreation and instruction in a semi-structured setting in the area of swimming, lifesaving, baseball, tennis and arts & crafts. The services are provided at the Recreation Park and adjoining school grounds.

LAURENS SUMMER RECREATION

Sponsoring Agency: Town and Village of Laurens

Contact Person: Doris Schlee

Phone: (607)433-2816

Director: Michelle Cleveland

The Summer Recreation Program provides playground, hiking, nature studies, kickball, basketball at the school and qualified swimming instruction for school age boys and girls at Gilbert Lake.

VILLAGE OF WEST WINFIELD & TOWN OF PLAINFIELD

Sponsoring Agency: Village of West Winfield and Town of Plainfield

Contact Person: Mary Eileen Ucekay, Village Clerk/ Treasurer

Phone: (315)822-3051

This program offers structured sports and arts and crafts to youth. It also transports them to the lake for swimming.

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

Sponsoring Agency: Unadilla Valley Central School

Contact Person: Jim DuVall

Phone: (607) - 859-2600

This program provides supervised swimming at the Unadilla Valley pool for young people who reside in Pittsfield.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these fine programs, please contact them directly or call the Youth Bureau at (607)547-4329.

➤ **ENJOY TODAY!**