

# Summer Youthworks 2023



## Program Highlights



### Youth and the Environment Service Project Based Learning Program (NEIWPCC)

MassHire MVWB YouthWorks Summer program partnered with New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) to enroll 3 youth in their Youth and the Environment Service Project Based Learning Program. In collaboration with the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District - Wastewater Treatment Facility, for 5 weeks, these youth will learn about topics related to the environment. Thanks to Evan with NEIWPCC for leading and training the youth in exploring Environmental Science and Public Health issues and solutions. Youth are also being prepared to lead a facility tour at the end of their project.



MassHire staff visited recently to check in and see how the youth were doing and to learn more about their experiences and the plant. We were encouraged and impressed by the facilities' commitment to being self-sufficient in creating all their own renewable energy to run the entire facility. YouthWorks participant, Shamielle, said she loves the experience because every time she learns one thing, it leads her down a path to learn another thing. MassHire MVWB looks forward to these continued partnerships to offer future opportunities to local youth looking to explore environmental sciences.



### Lawrence High School Transitional Program

Lawrence High School Transitional hosted a Project Based Learning opportunity for 19 youths. The host wanted the project to belong entirely to the youth and for that purpose, the youths were asked what they wanted their project to focus on. They expressed that youth with disabilities have a lot of structure and support during the school year but are mostly isolated and have limited opportunities for interaction and entertainment during the summer vacation. They decided to explore what activities the nearby cities have to offer and created a trifold with relevant information. Their goal was to compile assistive navigation information for many tastes and budgets. The trifold information had a wide array of activities ranging in cost and providing alternative modes of transportation. The youth benefited because they experienced the activities, and they included their reviews and tips for future consumers of their dedicated effort.



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### Health & Wellness/Career Pathways/First Aid Certification Project Based Learning Program

The Health and Wellness/Health Career/First Aid Certification Project-Based Learning experience offered 21 youths valuable health-related information. The youths experienced and improved in activities they had never tried before. This summer participation opened them up to experimenting and taking risks. One day they went to play volleyball and it was clear from their initial hesitation and subsequent performance that this was their first time. Within a couple of hours, they had opened and lessened their sensitivity, laughed, and made technical progress while at the same time building their confidence. It was wholesome to see so much benefit from such a small time investment. On a separate occasion, they were exposed to a food sampling gathering. The goal was for them to try new flavors, textures, and cultures.

The inclusive and supportive environment allowed them to take small, safe risks. It was incredibly rewarding to see their many expressions and commentaries of their likes and dislikes. On the technical aspect, they were introduced to all the terms and concepts needed to facilitate proper first-aid assistance. The youths got trained and received a take-home high-quality first aid kit. Nineteen of the youths received a first-aid certificate. Many of them expressed that their lifestyles had significantly improved after implementing the healthy living techniques they learned. They felt that they had learned how to keep their learning going independently and that hopefully, they would live a richer and longer life.



### Anna Jaques Hospital

Ashton Wonson, who was a Senior at Triton Regional High School, has been placed at our partner worksite, Anna Jaques Hospital for our YouthWorks Summer program. He has had a wonderful experience, has had great exposure in the hospital's operating room and is an exemplary intern. All of his supervisors raved about Ashton's willingness to learn and his eagerness to assist in any way he can. He will be off to college in Vermont in the fall and will major in Biochemical Engineering. Ashton hopes to go to med school after undergrad and is very grateful to the YouthWorks program for this exposure to a career interest he hopes to pursue in the future!



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### Groundwork Lawrence- Green Team

Groundwork Lawrence- 2 MassHire youth (Geybrell L. and Ana R.) were selected by Groundwork USA to visit Yellowstone National Park towards the end of their program experience to expose them to careers in the environmental field. Groundwork Staff shared about how youth got to see so many beautiful creatures, work on trails with the National Park Service, and network with other Groundwork USA youth! It was a phenomenal opportunity for them to be exposed to and learn about various environmental elements that expanded their knowledge in Environmental Justices/issues.

### Methuen Arlington Neighborhood

In partnership with MassHire MVWB, Commonwealth Corporation, and the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc., Secretary Lauren Jones of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, visited the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc., as part of the YouthWorks program funded through Commonwealth Corporation.



"The Healey-Driscoll administration is committed to investing in Massachusetts' future talent," said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. "I commend Methuen Arlington Neighborhood for providing dozens of local YouthWorks participants with employment opportunities right in their local community and exposure to gain essential skills like communication, financial literacy, teamwork, and leadership."



### Youth Development Organization

YDO wrapped up their summer programming with such huge success! Below is a video from Executive Director Mark Kampert on the organization's summer success, which was in large part due to the 17 YouthWorks program staff who planned curriculum and led workshops for over 125 kids in the community! Classes that YouthWorks youth taught included; Forensics, hair & beauty, cooking, theater, dance, and much more! VIDEO: [www.vimeo.com/ydolawrence/summer23](https://www.vimeo.com/ydolawrence/summer23)