

DRYDEN YOUTH COMMISSION
2010
Annual Report



Town of Dryden
Village of Dryden
Village of Freeville



<http://dryden.ny.us/youth-commission>

Support and increase access of Dryden youth to programs that build skills, confidence, leadership, and supportive relationships with peers and adults

The Dryden Youth Commission serves as an advisory group to three municipalities: the Town of Dryden and Villages of Dryden and Freeville. Members are appointed by the municipality they represent. The Commission is empowered to assess needs and priorities of youth and to develop programs that meet these needs. State, County and local funds are used to support these programs. The Commission solicits and reviews all requests for funds for youth development programs and recommends to the Town and Village Boards programs to be operated directly by the municipalities or through contracts with qualified agencies.

The Commission is also responsible for periodic review of funded programs to assure that they are meeting the needs for which they were originally designed. The Commission is interested in the active participation of young people including, but not limited to, participation on the Commission, input on program development, program evaluations and as program participants.

The Youth Commission meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Tuesday of the month. Meeting times and locations vary. Meetings are open to the public. Contact a current commission member (see page 3) or the website (see front page) for more information.

2010 Revenue

County Youth Services	\$33,264
State Youth Services	\$3,306
Dryden Town tax	\$44,252
Total	\$80,822

Since 1999 the Town of Dryden has received all County Youth Services funds on behalf of the Villages of Dryden and Freeville. The Town manages and matches these revenues.

Town of Dryden

Mary Ann Sumner, Supervisor
93 E. Main St., Dryden
844-8888



Village of Freeville

Lotte Carpenter, Mayor
5 Factory St., PO Box 288, Freeville
844-8301

Village of Dryden

Randall Sterling, Mayor
16 South St., PO Box 820, Dryden
844-8122

In 2009, the Dryden Youth Commission updated its needs assessment to learn about the issues and trends that are impacting Dryden youth. A summary follows. The detailed assessment may be found at <http://dryden.ny.us/youth-commission>. The identified needs and issues are used during for a 3-year cycle to set Commission priorities and guide funding decisions.

DYC membership

The Town of Dryden appoints 3 members; the Villages of Dryden and Freeville each appoint two members to the Dryden Youth Commission.

2010 Member Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
JoEllen Bailey, Vice-chair	Village of Dryden
Justin DiMatteo, Chair	Village of Freeville
InShik Lee	Town of Dryden
Jeffrey Walkuski	Town of Dryden
Stephanie Mulinos	Village of Dryden
Cynthia Waterman	Town of Dryden
(vacant)	Village of Freeville
Kris Bennett (non-voting)	liaison from Tompkins County
Melissa Bianconi (non-voting)	liaison from Town of Dryden

2011 Member Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
JoEllen Bailey	Village of Dryden
Justin DiMatteo, Chair	Village of Freeville
Stephanie Mulinos, Vice-chair	Village of Dryden
Jeffrey Walkuski	Town of Dryden
Cynthia Waterman	Town of Dryden
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Technical support provided by Kris Bennett, Tompkins County Youth Services Department, (607) 274-5310. If you are interested in serving on the Dryden Youth Commission, please contact Kris Bennett.



 **Dryden Youth Services—offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Dryden Youth Services' (DYS) 1 full- and 1 half-time program managers offered year-round activities to Dryden youth, targeting middle schoolers who do not typically participate in or succeed at school or in community clubs, activities, sports and programs. All students are welcomed so balanced groups are achieved where diverse youth can feel a sense of belonging. Additionally, DHS offers programs to build employment skills, moving some youth into first-time paid jobs.

DYS' goals are to provide opportunities for Dryden youth to learn healthy, life-long skills and habits, to feel successful, to develop a positive self-image, and to form relationships with youth and adults in a supported, comfortable environment. Programs are intentionally designed to promote life skills development.

In 2010, DHS program managers Dave Hall and Julie Newman offered **49** programs to **228 Dryden youth**. Participants ranged in age from 8 to 18, with most ages 11-14. Most programs met multiple times over several weeks, giving the participants time to connect with the adult program manager and gain social and life skills. While some youth participated in only one or two programs, others signed up for many throughout the year. For a complete listing, contact Kris Bennett (274-5310) or Linda Schoffel (272-2292). Here is a sample of a few of DHS' 2010 programs:

Bird Brains Participants learned about the bird world by focusing on field marks of birds, behavior, vocalizations, and body shape, becoming better observers of nature.

Cultural Cooking began each week with a lesson on a region, culture, or country the group had chosen. In small groups, they prepared and sampled recipes from the selected area, gaining kitchen skills, confidence and enthusiasm about other countries and cultures through their cuisine.

Dog Days Young people trained their own dogs, worked on agility, visited the SPCA, and learned from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. The program encouraged patience, understanding, and mastery of new techniques.

Get Lost challenged participants by teaching orienteering, lost-proofing, and aidless navigation skills through teamwork, listening and reasoning. Youth followed clues through the woods to find hidden Letter Boxes.

Girls' Group, a gender-specific program for meeting the differing needs of adolescent girls in a "safe space", gave girls the chance to talk, create skits, and participate in a nutrition and fitness workshop.



Primitive Pursuits Youth used native living and wilderness survival skills to connect to the natural world year-round. Youth gained mastery and self-confidence, building shelters and starting fires outdoors. Veterans worked together on a circular bark lodge suitable for long-term use.

Teen Challenge Groups offered students the chance to get out of the lunch room and have positive experiences within their school peer group. Youth built communication and social skills through games, challenges and sharing activities.

Youth Employment 5 youth received salaries in 2010. 2 youth, ages 16-20, were hired as program assistants to NYC staff, working a total of 65 hours. Three youth were placed and supported in summer jobs at Southworth Library, working 200 hours total.



O.U.R.S. Program—offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension

O.U.R.S. (Opportunities, Understanding, Respect, Success) offered year-round programming to 52 low-income youth living in mobile home parks in Dryden. Fifty Cornell student volunteers helped run school-year programs which were coordinated by ½ time CCE staff person Julie Newman; several Cornell students also helped Julie during the summer.

Monday Mentoring paired each youth with a mentoring volunteer to work one-on-one on academic and personal skills and interests. Mentors and youth worked on books from the First Book grant. They also used activity boxes with scientific experiments to generate interest in topics youth might not otherwise explore on their own. Pairs also worked on homework, communicated through journal writing and played games that helped develop literacy and math skills.

Thursday Teen Leadership Council gave older youth the chance to move into leadership roles within the program and community. Using a Local Environmental Appreciation Project Grant from Robinson-Appel, youth explored their outdoor environment through an educational lens and created their own field guide from studying their discoveries.

Friday Fun for All offered ongoing, hands-on, fun activities for youth to develop talents and interests in new areas. In Nutritious Cooking, youth experimented with healthy grains like quinoa and brown rice and made colorful vegetarian meals. Youth in the Fitness group participated in active games involving teamwork and creativity. The Arts & Crafts group used a Stop DWI grant for a strength-based “who am I” project to help determine their preferences and goals. They also made blue bird boxes as part of a service-learning project.



 **Brooktondale Summer Camp**

This summer program, open to youth from all communities, offered a half-day of recreation activities for youth at the Brooktondale Community Center. Youth enjoyed arts & crafts, singing, and outdoor games and team sports, increasing their social and communication skills while having fun in a safe setting. **9 Dryden youth** participated.

 **Village of Dryden Youth Jobs Program**

DYC funded summer youth employment in the Village of Dryden for **2 youth**, ages 16-20. One worked as a teen camp counselor at the Dryden Community Camp. She gained skills in activity planning, safety and child care while working with younger children enrolled in the camp. The second Dryden youth worked for the summer at the Public Works Department, helping to install sidewalks, lawn mowing, painting, and other jobs. Both learned the responsibilities of being an employee while contributing to their community.

 **Village of Freeville Youth Jobs Program**

At the 2010 Freeville Summer Camp, the salaries of **8 teen counselors** (ages 16-20) were subsidized by the DYC. The counselors gained job experience by working with younger children in the summer camp, using skills that helped the camp as well as gaining hands-on experience which can be used for future employment.

2010 Special Activities

- June, Dryden Dairy Days - DYC had a display to raise awareness of the Commission and the programs it funds as well as to recruit potential new members.
- Sept., Dryden Community Fair - DYC participated in this event organized by the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund to showcase Dryden's many youth programs and activities.
- Sept., Municipal Youth Services Celebration - DYC was recognized by Tompkins County Youth Services Dept. for 20 years of commitment to area youth.
- Oct., Youth Development Summit - DYC participated in this community-wide training representing a broad cross section of Dryden residents committed to helping Dryden's youth thrive.



O.U.R.S. Program

This family of four foster children has participated in the O.U.R.S. program since 2007... These siblings have, on average, attended nearly 50 O.U.R.S. programs between 2007 and 2011! They had joined the program, left, and returned again due to an unstable home life... With a long history of abuse and neglect, these youth spent many programs of the "early days" hiding in cupboards, running away, crying, hoarding food in pockets or eating it by the handful, and otherwise having emotional difficulty socializing with peers and mentors... Today (these youth) now seem well-adjusted. Now officially adopted and connected to (subsidized enrollment in) Primitive Pursuits, Social Services, Advocacy Center, Big Brother Big Sister, Horseback Riding and (Cornell Cooperative Extension's) Parenting & Communication programs, these youth have taken on leadership roles in the various clubs and bring their spirited personalities to every interaction... The O.U.R.S. program provides a safe space for participants to be themselves and share their talents and concerns while building healthy relationships with peers and adults... It is a place of belonging.

Dryden Youth Services

2010 marked the second annual Junior Fire Academy. This program was a collaboration between (Cornell Cooperative Extension's) Rural Youth Services and the Dryden Fire Department. For a solid 5 days, students met at the Dryden Fire Hall to get more than just a taste of what it takes to be a volunteer fire fighter... This program epitomizes the great and powerful things that can happen when dedicated people come together. All of the fire fighters, usually no less than 8 were present at any given time, volunteered to share their skills and educate 26 Dryden students... Topics covered ranged from fire safety, first aid, search and rescue, gear and its proper usage, hose training, triage, drugs and alcohol education as well as rides in various rescue vehicles. A five hour day is practically as long as a school day. Not once did a participant get bored or want to go home. Whether teams competed against each other filling garbage cans using a traditional bucket brigade, filled up cans using a modern pressurized hose or raced each other to see who could get their gear on first, being active and improving upon skills was always encouraged. It will be interesting to see how many participants become volunteer fire fighters or Emergency Medical Technicians in the future. One thing is for certain: our youth have experienced first hand the value of giving back to one's community.



Conduct the business of the Dryden Youth Commission

*° Maintain full and active membership

Provide members with all associated information and materials, including orientation to new members

Acknowledge and respect the volunteer capacity in which all members serve

Adhere to operating guidelines established for the Commission

Establish and review Commission working calendar and budget

Identify youth needs and interests

Identify, assess and prioritize the needs and interests of Dryden youth

Gather information about youth needs from parents, youth, educators, and the community

* Identify available and needed youth services, programs & resources

Secure and maintain effective programming to meet identified needs

Solicit program proposals and choose programs to meet identified needs and target population

Assign program liaisons

Monitor and evaluate funded programs annually

Receive and review annual written reports and such oral reports as are deemed necessary from funded programs



Oversee Commission budgeting practices

Review appropriation and budgeting procedures

Recommend youth program funding allocations to Town of Dryden

Identify and review potential program funding sources

Increase awareness of Commission responsibilities, activities and programs

*° Publicize programs and activities supported by the Commission

Maintain regular communication with affiliated municipalities and with Tompkins County

Produce and distribute an annual report of Commission activities

Advocate for all youth

° Coordinate with other groups planning for Dryden youth services and programs

* Areas of focus for DYC during 2010.

° Areas of focus for DYC for 2011.

