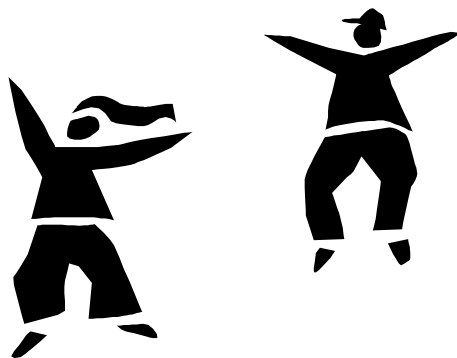




# 2007 Annual Report

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## Dryden Youth Commission



*Town of Dryden*  
*Village of Dryden*  
*Village of Freeville*

[www.dryden.ny.us/youth.html](http://www.dryden.ny.us/youth.html)



## Mission

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

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**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 which 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 monthly on the third Tuesday. Meeting times and locations vary. Meetings are open to the public. Contact a current commission member (see back page) for more information.

### 2007 Revenue

County Youth Services	\$32,850
State Youth Services	\$3,993
County Youth Employment	\$5,677
Dryden Town tax	\$42,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,040</b>

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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.



## **2006 Needs Assessment**

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During early 2006, the Dryden Youth Commission conducted a needs assessment to learn what issues and trends are affecting Dryden youth. The following needs that were identified will be used during the next 3 years to set Commission priorities and guide funding decisions.

- ~ Lack of healthy activities for youth outside of their homes; need for alternatives for the variety of family situations
- ~ Lack of safe, accessible places for youth and families to participate in a variety of low- to no-cost programs
- ~ Lack of social skills including impulse control, anger management & problem resolution skills
- ~ Ongoing bullying, harassment (inappropriate social skills)
- ~ Lack of transportation to / from offered programs
- ~ Lack of mentors and people who will listen to young people
- ~ Insufficient opportunities for teen employment and learning job skills
- ~ Increase in anxiety
- ~ Issues navigating relationships
- ~ Increase in youth seeking counseling for grief and loss
- ~ Increase in sexual activity at younger ages
- ~ Inappropriate use of technology (internet, cell phone/photo use)
- ~ Beginnings of gang activity
- ~ Inappropriate use of prescription drugs
- ~ Ongoing assaults, drugs, weapons, graffiti
- ~ Increase in youth with special needs

**What solutions are being offered?** Dryden can continue to provide opportunities for youth to succeed in a variety of ways. Youth are encouraged to talk to their families about their problems and concerns. Open communication between youth, youth workers, parents and teachers can help to provide a support network for youth. Schools are expanding in-school programs for character education to counter bullying and to teach conflict resolution. Dryden has a resource officer present in the schools. Parents can stay aware of their youth's activities and help to foster safe activities in the community. Expanded programming can continue to be offered during after-school hours with transportation provided.



## **Programs funded in 2007 by Youth Commission**

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### **Brooktondale Summer Camp**

This 6-week summer program, open to youth from all communities, offered a half-day of recreation activities for youth at the Brooktondale Community Center. Youth participated in arts & crafts, singing, and outdoor games, increasing their social and communication skills while having fun in a safe setting. In 2007, **13 Dryden youth participated.**

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

Dryden Youth Services' (DYS) 1 full-time and 1 half-time program manager offer activities year-round to Dryden youth, with a primary focus of targeting middle school youth who do not typically participate in or succeed at school or in community clubs, activities, sports and programs.

DYS' goals are to promote positive youth development in a comfortable group with mentoring adult guidance, to encourage group interaction, self-responsibility, leadership and opportunities for youth to contribute to their community and to create awareness of career opportunities. Programs are intentionally designed to promote life skills development and to increase youths' feelings of Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.

During 2007, DYS program managers Dave Hall and Tom Archibald offered more than 50 programs to a total of **157 Dryden youth**. Participants ranged in age from 8 to 18 with most between 11 and 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. Here is a description of a few of DYS' many 2007 programs : (For a complete listing, contact Kris Bennett (274-5310) or Linda Schoffel (272-2292).)

**Animal Adventures and Animal Helpers** Youth explored careers and opportunities to work with animals through visits to the SPCA and Cornell Ornithology Lab and by contact with area experts such as Dan the Snake Man and the Ross Park Mobile Zoo. In addition to gaining understanding and empathy, youth gained job skills and learned about stress management and community service.



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**Computer Animation** Youth learned to create animation using FLASH. The program increased the youths' computer literacy, creativity and problem solving skills.

**Pay It Forward** is a youth leadership service learning program. Youth thought of ways to help the community and worked on a teen employment guide which will help teens wanting jobs find businesses needing employees. Youth gained skills in leadership, citizenship, teamwork, problem-solving, goal setting and communication.

**Food Glorious Food** Youth gained a deeper understanding of food, cooking, nutrition, and food systems. Youth gained teamwork skills during field trips and by cooking together.

**Get Lost** challenged youth by teaching orienteering and aidless navigation skills. Youth were put to the test on a field trip when they successfully found their way out of unknown woods during a supervised "get lost" adventure. Youth gained confidence, patience, teamwork and communication skills.

**Primitive Pursuits** Youth explored and used native living skills, survival skills and nature awareness to connect to the natural world. Youth gained a connection to nature and the environment, mastery and self-confidence in learning to create shelter using found materials, start fires and enjoy the out-of-doors year round.

**Teen Challenge Groups** Participating in this alternative to the school lunchroom, youth worked on social skills by playing group games and doing activities that foster teamwork and communication.

**Youth Employment** 5 youth, ages 14-20, were hired as program assistants to DYS staff during 2007. In addition, DYS placed and supported 3 youth in jobs at Southworth Library.



## **Town of Dryden Youth Jobs**

The DYC funded **summer jobs for 8 teens**, ages 16-20, who worked for the Town of Dryden Recreation Department. The teens staffed and supervised the skate park during summer public hours and also helped with the summer weekly concerts in the park. The teens gained job experience in equipment set-up, facility maintenance, record keeping and assuring appropriate conduct by youth using the skate park.



## **Programs funded in 2007 by Youth Commission (continued)**

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### **Village of Dryden Police and Community Program & Junior Police Academy**

The **Police and Community Program** put police officers in Dryden and Freeville elementary schools for educational presentations on resisting drugs and alcohol, making good decisions, personal safety and more. Youth gain knowledge and team building skills. Through the regular contact, youth learn to know and trust the police who are also available proactively to target bullying and school violence.

**Jr. Police Academy** provided **23 elementary and middle school youth** with a one-week, inside look at police training and work. Highlights included helping with radar checks, crime scene investigation, a visit by the K-9 unit, and an outing on Cayuga Lake on a police patrol boat.

### **Village of Dryden Youth Jobs Program**

DYC funded **summer youth employment for 4 local teens**, ages 16-20 through Village of Dryden Youth Jobs. They learned the responsibilities of being an employee and earned a salary while working in the community. One teen participated as a counselor at the Dryden Summer Recreation Program. Two performed clerical duties (one in the Village clerk/treasurer's office, one in the Dryden Police Dept.). One worked with the Dept. of Public Works.

### **Village of Freeville Youth Jobs Program**

At the 2007 Freeville Summer Camp, the salaries of **4 teen counselors** (ages 16-20) and the stipends of **3 CIT's** (counselors in training, ages 14-15) were funded by the DYC. The counselors gained job experience by working in the summer camp. The CIT's were paired half-days with experienced counselors, gaining skills that served the camp and gave them hands-on experience they can use for future employment.



## **2008 Objectives**

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### **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 and resources

Define a target population

### **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



## Dryden Youth Commission Membership

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

### 2007 Member Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
JoEllen Bailey, chair	Village of Dryden
Tom Fuchs	Town of Dryden
InShik Lee	Town of Dryden
*Alan Macomber	Village of Dryden
*Thomas Quinn	Town of Dryden
Stephanie McConnell	Village of Freeville
Cynthia Waterman, vice-chair	Town of Dryden
Kris Bennett (non-voting)	liaison from Tompkins County

\* Term ended or resigned during year.

### 2008 Member Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
JoEllen Bailey, chair	Village of Dryden
Thomas Fuchs	Town of Dryden
InShik Lee	Town of Dryden
Stephanie McConnell	Village of Freeville
Kim Schenck	Village of Dryden
Cynthia Waterman, vice-chair	Town of Dryden
(Vacant)	Village of Freeville
Kris Bennett (non-voting)	liaison from Tompkins County
Mary Ann Sumner (non-voting)	liaison from Town of Dryden



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, Tompkins County Youth Services, 274-5310.

#### **Town of Dryden**

Mary Ann Sumner, Supervisor  
93 E. Main St., Dryden

#### **Village of Dryden**

Reba Taylor, Mayor  
16 South St., PO Box 820, Dryden

#### **Village of Freeville**

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