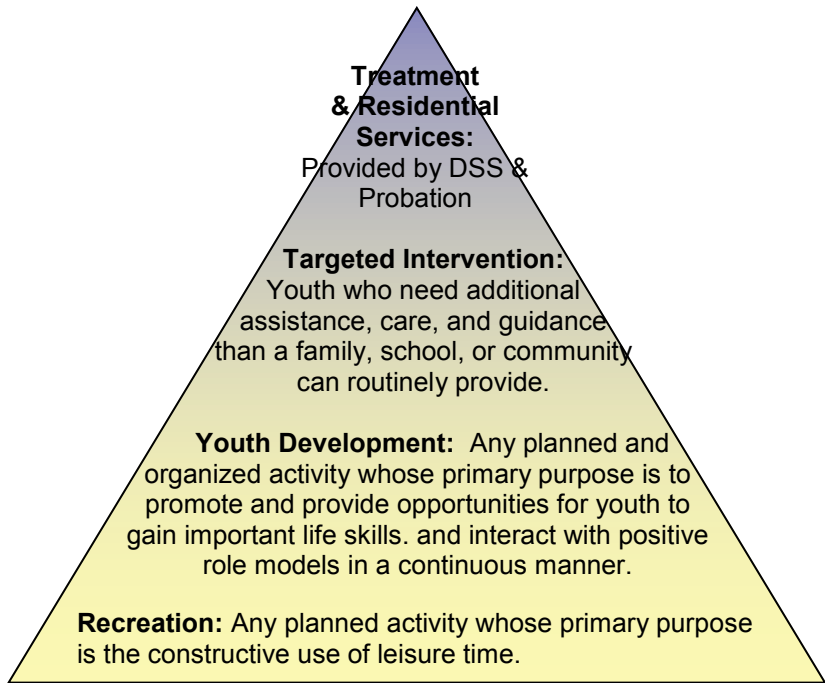


# A Continuum of Care Approach to Youth Services

Youth Development Programs are purposefully designed to promote and provide opportunities for youth to gain important life skills and that allow youth to have meaningful roles in their communities.



As youth move up the pyramid, services tend to be more costly and intensive.

According to the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research & the Academy for Educational Development, the average annual local cost of youth development programming is \$572 per youth.



# 2012 Annual Report



Clockwise from top left: Primitive Pursuits; Rocketry; Women's Rights Museum trip; Summer gardening; Floating Classroom

## Mission & Operations

*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.

### 2012 DYC Revenue

County Youth Services	\$16,222
State Youth Services	\$1,718
Dryden Town tax	\$42,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$59,979</b>

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

## DYC Objectives

### 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

### 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, 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 2012

## Youth Employment Programs funded in 2012 by NYC

- ◆ **Municipal Youth Jobs through Cornell Cooperative Extension:**  
Three local youth gained first-time job experience by working in one of 2 sites. Two worked at Southworth Library, helping with assorted library work. One worked as an assistant to CCE program manager Dave Hall, helping deliver programs to program participants.
- ◆ **Village of Dryden Youth Jobs:**  
One local youth worked as a counselor at the V. Dryden Summer Camp, helping with arts and crafts and outdoor activities while promoting a safe and happy environment and gaining work experience.
- ◆ **Village of Freeville Youth Jobs:**  
One local youth worked as a CIT at the V. Freeville Summer Camp, gaining leadership skills and job experience while helping a senior counselor prepare and deliver activities for enrolled campers.

### The Value of Supporting Youth Employment:

*Youth learn work-relevant skills such as communication, time management, decision making, teamwork, and business etiquette that are critical to success in the workplace. Youth employees build skills as they engage in their community. A first-time job experience acquaints youth with on-the-job experiences and helps tie education to the workplace and can motivate them to stay in school.*

- America's Promise, 2012

*Many of the skills discussed as critical for success in the 21st century workforce are the same skills needed to be capable, competent and contributing citizens, parents, neighbors and friends. The skills demanded in the business world are mirrored by those required for everyday life. Skills for work are skills for life.*

- Partnership for 21st Century Learning, 2003

The Tompkins County Youth Services Dept. identified a lack of youth employment opportunities as a concern in its 2012 County Needs Assessment.

## DYC Membership

The Town of Dryden appoints three members; the Villages of Dryden and Freeville each appoint two members to the Dryden Youth Commission. In 2012 the Commission met nine times.

### 2012 Member Roster

Name	Representing
JoEllen Bailey	Village of Dryden
Chrissy Guest*, vice-chair	Village of Freeville
Tracy Kurtz	Town of Dryden
Stephanie Mulinos, chair	Village of Freeville
Shelby Murphy*	Town of Dryden
Jeffrey Walkuski	Town of Dryden
Vacant	Village of Dryden
Kris Bennett (non-voting)	Tompkins County liaison
Melissa Bianconi (non-voting)	Town of Dryden liaison

\* Resigned term during year.

In 2013, the Dryden Youth and Recreation Commissions will be restructured into a single commission with meetings open to the public. Contact a current commission member or the website (see front page) for more information.



Technical support provided by Kris Bennett, Tompkins County Youth Services Department, (607) 274-5310.

## 2012 Youth Participation

Youth Development		Youth Employment	
Cornell Coop. Extension Dryden Youth Services	177	V. Dryden Youth Jobs	1
		V. Freeville Youth Jobs	1
Cornell Coop. Extension O.U.R.S.	61	Cornell Coop. Extension Youth Jobs	3
<b>Total Youth Served in NYC-funded programs in 2012</b>			<b>227</b>

◆ **Dryden Youth Services (through Cornell Cooperative Extension):**

Full-time Program Manager Dave Hall offered 34 programs during the year to 177 youth, primarily middle schoolers. All students are welcomed, but youth who do not typically participate in or succeed at school or in community clubs, sports, or activities are targeted. DYS' goals are to provide opportunities for Dryden youth to learn healthy, life-long skills, to feel successful, and to form relationships with youth and adults in a supported environment. Individual programs are designed to promote the development of life skills, goal setting, teamwork, empathy, and conflict resolution. Most programs met multiple times over several weeks. While some youth participated in only a few programs, others signed up for many throughout the year. Some of 2012's programs (for a full list contact Kris Bennett, 274-5310 or Linda Schoffel, 272-2292):

**Babysitters Brigade** helped youth gain skills to prepare them for work with children. Youth worked on skills including first aid and age-appropriate activities. The last day of programming was spent providing activities to youth at the Dryden After School Program.

**Helping Hands** is a service learning program that lets youth get involved to do something to make their community a better place. In the spring, the participants built a work/garden station for the Dryden Sustainability Club.

**Primitive Pursuits** teaches native living skills, wilderness survival and nature awareness while building participants' confidence and connection to the natural world. Youth built friction fires, shelters and traps, and learned to identify edible plants.



**Success story:** *A new student involved in Dave's programs revealed that a disability kept her from being active for extended periods of time. Dave showed her knot tying while others were jumping rope. Building on this new trust, Dave engaged H. in other programs such as babysitting, cooking, and crafts. H.'s talents were revealed when she won the Iron Chef contest, making a beautiful pastry stuffed with sausage and herbs. By the end of fall, the formerly shy H. was confident and chatty. Dave asked her to lead a cake decorating program to which she agreed. H. has blossomed and become a leader and role model in her own special way, sharing something she loves with her peers.*

◆ **Dryden O.U.R.S. Program (Cornell Cooperative Extension):**

Half-time Program Manager Nikki Nease offered year-round O.U.R.S. (Opportunities, Understanding, Respect, Success) programming to 61 low-income youth living in Dryden mobile home parks. Youth are transported to 4-H Acres by van for programs three times a week. School-year programs are planned and led by over 50 Cornell student volunteers who are trained and coordinated by Nikki. The Cornell students received the 2012 Town-Gown award from Cornell's Public Service Center. During summer and school breaks when most C.U. volunteers are not available, Nikki provides programming. In addition to the regular activities listed below, some youth participated in a summer sewing program, entered projects in the 4-H Fair and were invited to enter the NY State Fair.

**Monday Mentoring** paired youth with a mentoring volunteer for one-on-one homework support along with help on social skills, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, and sharing. Youth/mentor pairs also learned through experiential activities based on youth interests, including baking, science, reading, crafts, etc.

**Tuesday Teen/Tween Leadership Council** engages older, mature youth to take on leadership roles. Some shared stories and spent quality time at Cayuga Ridge Nursing Home, followed by a meal at Loaves and Fishes. Others gained skills to lead activities with the broader group during Friday programming or made films that were screened at Cornell's Uris Theater.

**Fun Fridays for All** gives youth chances to master new skills and work together in groups through participating in one of three experiential projects (nutritional cooking, fitness, arts & crafts).



**Success story:** *C., a 4-year program veteran, served as a summer program assistant to Nikki. Her job was supported with federal summer TANF youth employment funds. She was enthusiastic and grateful for the position which formalized much of what she already did to support the program. She reinforced guidelines for program safety and led activities for younger participants with respect. Given the chance to advance from "mentee" to "mentor" built C's skills in leadership and patience and was an empowering experience. "Knowing when to follow can be the most important part of being a leader."*