

CAREER CENTER NEWS

Warren County Celebrates Summer Tourism & Hospitality

The hospitality and tourism workforce survived another busy summer in the region with continued workforce shortages and increased tourism. As a thank you for their hard work, Six Flags Great Escape offered a free night of fun on September 12, 2022 for Warren County hospitality, tourism and retail workers. Supervisors and managers nominated employees to win awards in the categories of



Customer Service, Sales, Team Spirit, Patience, Leadership and Cross-Promotion of the Region. Director of Warren County Employment & Training, Liza Ochsendorf, announced award winners and distributed certificates and prizes that evening. Thirteen local businesses donated over 70 prizes, including gift certificates, admission tickets and overnight stays. Additional hospitality audience members present also won prizes and enjoyed the celebratory atmosphere. Employees were able to bring a guest for \$5 admission and proceeds benefited the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks.

In an effort to keep everyone employed year-round, some winter employers and Employment & Training staff were on hand to recruit for the winter season. To incentivize summer employees getting winter jobs instead of taking unemployment benefits, some employers are thinking outside the box. Patrick Welton, the Resort Manager of Lake George Escape Campground, intends to offer his summer employees two additional paid days off if they return to him with experience from a winter employer. This effort helps employees gain additional skills and knowledge, supports the winter economy and helps employees be able to cross promote other businesses in the area. Six Flags Great Escape is committed to making this an annual event. Katelyn Babson, the Office Manager from Adirondack Adventure Center, attended the celebration with several colleagues and had this to share: “Thank you for setting up the Great Escape event! Our employees had such a blast and are so grateful for the acknowledgment from our community. We look forward to seeing this event grow in the years to come.”

Did You Know?

In Warren County, total economic impact from tourism totals approximately \$628 million dollars annually supporting over 8,800 jobs (direct and indirect) generating \$306 million in labor income.

Source: edcwc.org

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Employment & Training Staff

Liza Ochsendorf - Director

Annie McMahan - Fiscal Manager

Gayle Mender - Counselor

JoAnne Finn - Counselor

Jill Metcalfe - Youth Counselor

Andrea Kinderman - Coordinator

Summer Youth Employment Program Celebration

Warren County's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) concluded another successful season, culminating in a picnic and awards ceremony on August 12th. The program, funded by TANF, places local youth at worksites throughout the county in order to provide an opportunity for teens to gain valuable work experience.

This year's program saw 27 teens employed at 20 worksites. Duties performed at participating worksites include:

- Operation Food Chain - Preparing and serving lunches
- Blackberry Hill Farm - Feeding and caring for animals
- Warrensburg Parks & Recreation, Glens Falls Parks & Recreation, Johnsbury Parks & Recreation - Outdoor maintenance
- Fort William Henry Gift Shop - Operating a cash register

The program also had its first remote worksite with a youth working for Fail Safe Technologies, a business that offers technological services to municipalities and critical infrastructure stakeholders across the country. Logan S. of Warrensburg worked remotely under the supervision of Hans Olsen, owner of Fail Safe Technologies. Logan's assignment included researching technology options based on individual customer needs in order to be able to make product recommendations. Olsen was impressed with Logan from the start and said, "Logan's efforts helped us fulfill various clients' needs in both the private and public sectors. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn are great attributes that will allow him to successfully pursue avenues of interest to him."

This year's picnic, held at East Field in Glens Falls and catered by Rainer's Gourmet, was a way to celebrate the accomplishments of all the youth who completed the program. Worksite supervisors, members of the Warren County Board of Supervisors and other community leaders were among those in attendance to show support for program participants. Steve Pugh, returning worksite supervisor and owner of The Stone Stash, was the guest speaker and spoke about entrepreneurship and turning a passion into a business. For the awards ceremony, each youth was honored with a certificate recognizing distinct traits that were displayed throughout their work assignments. These included awards for Being Respectful, Being Dependable, Being Cooperative, and Being Willing to Listen and Learn. Although every participant was deserving of praise for their hard work, three trophies were awarded to those who stood out as exceptional workers. First-year participant Averi B. was given the "Rising Star" trophy for the tremendous growth she exhibited while working at Blackberry Hill Farm. Kyle B., a third-year participant, was awarded the "Rock Star" trophy for having an outstanding work ethic during his time at Glens Falls Parks and Recreation. The highest honor, "Employee of the Summer," was granted to Serenity W. While working at Johnsbury Library, Serenity impressed her supervisors with her professionalism and maturity, as well as her ability to quickly learn new tasks. She achieved perfect attendance and worked seamlessly with other library staff to help with the day-to-day operations in addition to assisting with special events.



The Career Center is proud of all of those who chose to enter the workforce this summer, particularly during a time in which many businesses are continuing to struggle to fill open positions. This year's group of participants once again illustrated the value of the youth in Warren County and their ability to provide service to the community.

Using Social Media in Your Job Search

Your presence online matters in your job search, as 90% of employers search social media accounts of job candidates. Your profile can make or break your chances of getting hired. Use the tips below to help clean up your social media to portray a more positive view of yourself:

- Google your name to see what comes up and ask yourself how an employer could be influenced by what they see (or don't see) and read about you online
- Never post negatively about current or past employers and coworkers
- Take down photos showing alcohol or drug use. If an employer only sees posts of parties, drugs, and alcohol, they may get a lopsided vision of who you are
- Remember that you can delete comments others post to your social media. An employer isn't just hiring a worker, they are looking for someone to represent their company and will not want to hire someone with discriminatory or offensive posts on social media
- Be truthful. Lying about qualifications or where you were on a sick day can lead to distrust



Once you have eliminated posts that may negatively effect your chances of being hired, you can take it a step further to actually use your social media in a way that makes you stand out in a positive and professional light:

- Showcase your work and skills on a professional site such as LinkedIn
- Make sure your social media profiles are consistent and match your resume
- Share posts and articles related to your current or desired industry. This shows that you stay up to date on events relevant to the field in which you are interested in working
- On LinkedIn and Facebook, you can join groups or pages that are related to your career interests. This is a great way to keep up with industry news and expand your networking circle
- Show your personality. Stay professional, but also try to show you're an interesting person who is not only capable but also likeable and well-rounded

Attend a monthly Greater Capital Region Virtual Workshop to learn more helpful tips...

- Resume Development
 - Transferable Skills
 - Interview Preparation
 - Completing Job Applications
- Goal Setting
- Overcoming Barriers
- Social Media

To learn more about these workshops or to register for an upcoming workshop, visit <https://thejoblink.org/calendar/>

SPOTLIGHT on SUCCESS

Congratulations Ethan P!

Warren County Employment & Training is proud to announce that Ethan P. of Queensbury, has successfully completed the GED program! Ethan enrolled in the program in the spring and was determined to earn his diploma in order to fulfill his goal of joining the military. Ethan has been in communication with a local recruiter throughout his time working toward his GED. Now that he has earned his diploma he will start basic training within the month! His recruiter has relayed to the Career Center that he has noticed positive changes in Ethan since his enrollment in the program. The Career Center is proud of the hard work and determination that Ethan exhibited in order to achieve his goal.



It's a Great Time to Visit the Warren County Career Center

The Warren County Career Center welcomes members of the public to utilize the center's services in-person on the third floor of the Traveler's Building in downtown Glen Falls.

Services at the Career Center can be tailored to an individual's employment needs and include resume writing assistance, interview preparation, labor market information, career exploration and assessment tools, and online classes and certifications. Free internet, fax, copier, scanning, and telephone are available for all job seekers. In addition, visitors will find postings for current job openings and information for education and training opportunities. For youth ages 16-24, the Career Center provides information for job training and placement opportunities as well as assistance with obtaining a high school equivalency diploma. Veterans can meet with Veteran's Employment Representatives who are veterans themselves and are specifically trained to assist those transitioning from the military in finding a new job or starting a new career.

The Career Center will continue to offer monthly virtual workshops that were developed at the start of the pandemic but is also looking forward to once again servicing customers in-person and will be hosting an in-person job fair at Crandall Library on October 20th.

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