

Afterschool Programs and Youth Engagement

Burlington

Charlotte

Durham

Gastonia

Goldsboro

Jacksonville

Rocky Mount

City of Burlington

Efforts related to afterschool programs and youth engagement.

The Burlington Recreation & Parks Department offers an extensive Afterschool, Summer Day Camp, Wee School and Youth Engagement program.

Afterschool programs are offered for both traditional and non-traditional school year calendars to meet the needs of parents during the afterschool hours. These programs take place on-site at a few of the elementary schools and two of the department's community centers. There are over eight sites in conjunction with pick-up programs. Programming includes recreational based activities as well as educational opportunities from computer skills to tutoring. Full and part-time options are available for the parents.

Summer Day Camps take place at nine sites across the City and offer parents the opportunity for a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for their child throughout the summer months. Specialty camps that include fitness engagement opportunities, nature, and arts are held during specially designated weeks throughout the summer.

Participation numbers range between 200-350 depending the week of camp.



Charlotte's Afterschool Programs and Youth Engagement Programs

- **Mayor's Youth Employment Program** prepares Charlotte's youth ages 14-24 for the workforce by providing job readiness training and placement assistance.
- **Mayor's Mentoring Alliance** is a referral service that connects mentors with young people. More than 50 agencies and organizations make up the Alliance. Their basic purpose is to provide positive role modeling, academic assistance and leadership development.
- **Gang of One** is a gang prevention and intervention initiative of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in partnership with local agencies and citizens and local, state, and federal law enforcement. Its mission is to prevent youth from joining a gang, support youth being pressured to join a gang, and assist youth in getting out of a gang.
- **Police Activities League** is a structured community based program to engage underserved youth in athletic and educational programs.
- **After School Enrichment Programs** are provided by the City under contract to 6 different school and church organizations.
- **The Teen Mentoring/Teen Violence Court Committee** is a community collaboration led by a District Court Judge to develop strategies and maximize existing efforts to address the need for teen mentoring and reduce the incidence of teen violence.
- **Charlotte's Community Relations Committee (CRC)** has been involved in numerous activities to address issues around fatherhood and getting men more involved in their children's lives.
- **The Juvenile Victim-Offender Mediation** is another CRC program which offers a safe environment in which a juvenile who committed a crime and a person who suffered the effects of that crime can meet and talk together in the presence of a trained, neutral mediator.

The City of Durham Afterschool and Youth Engagement

After School

Durham Parks and Recreation offers after school programming to youth ages 5-12 years old. Activities include homework assistance, arts and crafts, computer class, environmental science and more. Registration is ongoing and the schedule follows the local school schedules. Certain sites offer a year-round schedule and others offer a traditional school calendar. Durham Parks and Recreation also offers a Teen After School Program specifically designed for ages 13-17.

DPR also provides inclusion services for after school to support children with disabilities so they can fully participate in all programs and events. Discover After School is for children and youth with developmental disabilities who need a special program; and Explore Teen After School for teens and young adults with disabilities who are working on pre-vocational skills.

Special after school programs are also offered for times when school is not in session. These include Fun Days, which take place during teacher in-service days or other weekdays when students are not in school. Intersession Camp is for children who attend year-round schools, to provide them with a place to go during the Intersession break. Both of these special programs offer similar activities to regular after school, including sports, games, dance, arts and crafts, swimming, and more.

Youth Engagement

Several of our recreation and neighborhood centers have teen councils that work to give youth a voice in the community, as well as teach leadership, public speaking and programming skills. They encourage youth and teens to make a positive impact on their community and focus on working to promote positive programs for teens in Durham.

In addition to recreational and educational programming, DPR offers social times designed especially for teens, often in the evenings and on Friday night, to provide them with a positive and safe place to socialize and spend time together.

One of our community relations coordinators works directly with at-risk youth to give them the tools they need to make positive choices about their future. Our coordinator has recently organized a five-part series that challenges youth to address issues in their community through discussion and performing arts and teaches youth about the justice system through panel discussions and other interactions.

DPR also offers many special programs that offer opportunities for youth and teens to develop and grow. During spring break, youth will be able to receive job readiness training, lifeguard training which can transition them into lifeguarding summer jobs, college campus tours, fire safety training through the Jr. Fire Marshal program, and can participate in various nature day trips to different locations in the Piedmont of North Carolina.

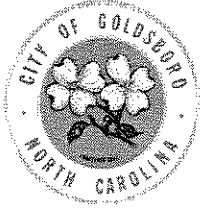
Youth Census Involvement

Durham Parks and Recreation is distributing Census information to customers at all of our centers, and staff has been given information to share with citizens about the ways in which participating in the Census will benefit our community. DPR staff is also encouraged to incorporate the Census Initiative into discussion and use it as a learning opportunity with program participants of all ages. Staff will then share about how the Census Initiative was incorporated into programming, as well as lessons learned.

Members of the Durham Youth Commission will assist with distributing Census literature in the Southside/Saint Theresa Community on Thursday, April 1. Members will also assist with the distribution of Census literature as part of the "March to the Mailbox" initiative on April 10, 2010 in conjunction with a neighborhood action group.

Youth Engagement Activities – City of Gastonia

- The **Mayor's Youth Leadership Council**, organized by Mayor Stultz and supported by the City, hosted a community-wide drug and alcohol-free concert for Gaston County high school students; assisted with the building of a Habitat for Humanity house; visited children and hospice patients at Gaston Memorial Hospital during Christmas; organized parties with food, games and activities for Christmas and Valentine's Day at the Boys & Girls Club; and conducted a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser to fund Youth Council projects.
- The **Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department** offers a wide variety of youth activities that are either staff-directed, in partnership with outside agencies, or fee-based instructional classes/programs. These include an after school study hall for elementary students, arts & crafts, step team, cheerleading, self defense, Sistas [sic], Fathers Forever, Book Club, Street Smart, seasonal events, and team participation in recreational athletic leagues. Also, both active and passive leisure activities and/or educational programs are offered in community centers which includes, gymnasiums, game rooms, lounges, playgrounds, ball fields, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, a skate park, computer lab and a library.
- The **Schiele Museum** offers a variety of hands-on, science and natural history programs for youth. These include: after school programs conducted at the museum and at community centers, workshops, day field trips on weekends, and an extensive schedule of summer camps.
- The **Crime Prevention Division of the Gastonia Police Department** engages youth through educational outreach programs, trainings, and onsite demonstration. The Crime Prevention Officer conducts a number of training sessions with area schools, daycares, nonprofit organizations, etc. when requested. Training sessions are focused on crime prevention education. Gastonia Police also engage youth through the Explorers Program. The Explorers program is designed to give insight into law enforcement careers for young men and women aged 14 - 21 through hands-on activities. Explorers meet for two hours twice a month to learn about law enforcement activities and are called in on occasion to help with special assignments.
- **Stormwater Services** staff regularly visits school, community and civic groups to discuss stormwater runoff and pollution prevention. Departmental representatives frequent community events and festivals to improve stormwater outreach. Also, youth participate in the community basin marking outreach program.
- **Keep Gastonia Beautiful (KGB)** works with elementary, middle and high school students offering them a myriad of activities, contests and instructional programs, such as Recycled Art, Tennis Ball Re-Use, Phone Book Recycling, I Love A Clean School Contest, and "Twiggy the Talking Tree. Youth are also active in community wide events such as Big Sweep, Great American Clean-up, Make a Difference Day, and our Arbor Day Event. KGB is also very active in Gaston County Schools, coordinating school recycling programs and recyclables pickup. KGB staff regularly gives educational presentations to youth through Rotary Clubs and Master Gardener members, Science Fairs, the International Fair and civic groups.
- **Gastonia Fire Department** engages youth through educational outreach programs, trainings, and onsite demonstration during school and special community events, when invited.



City of Goldsboro
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ArtSmarts is an after school and summer program in the City of Goldsboro that provides students, grades 3rd-5th, the opportunity for exploration and immersion in music and art. As the program develops, theater and dance will also be offered. We are providing excellent introductory art experiences to the youth of Goldsboro to engage their minds creatively; foster advanced arts interests; and, enhance aptitude performance in school. The following are our goals for the program:

- Provide excellent introductory art experiences to the youth of Goldsboro
- Provide an opportunity for children to work on their school homework in a supportive and motivating environment
- Introduce children to the arts community around them
- Provide self-confidence building skills through sharing and communication exercises

Our tentative daily schedule is from 3:00-3:45pm Arrive, Snacks, Homework Assistance, 3:45-5:15pm Class Time, Music or Art; depending upon the weekday. From 5:15-6:00pm Character Building Activities & Homework Assistance, 6:00pm Parent Pick Up.

ArtSmarts is located at Herman Park Center, 901 E. Ash Street. The center is conveniently located across from Herman Park and the Wayne County Public Library Main Branch. The contact information for the Program Coordinator is Martha Bryan, room 127 Historic City Hall, Phone: 580- 4278.

The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks After School Programs

The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department realizes the importance and value an afterschool program offers the community. It has been proven that the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentations with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and more negative behaviors. By curbing these negative behaviors the afterschool programs offers many positive outcomes for the youth. Positive outcomes include physical exercise, learning and tutoring opportunities, socialization skills, parent interaction and much more. The Recreation and Parks Department offers a total of six afterschool programs for ages ranging from six to thirteen. A typical day in the afterschool programs starts with a healthy snack, followed by homework/tutoring time. Communication between the staff, parent and children is vital when it comes to homework. We emphasize that parents need to follow-up and discuss what has been done and what still needs to be done. After homework time, we allow for some supervised free time; which can include basketball, jump rope, social time with friends, etc. After this period of free time, we break into groups for organized play – kick ball, freeze dance, simon says, etc. Weather permitting the end of the day will usually conclude on the playground or surrounding grounds playing a game. The exception to this day would be special events or programs which include black history month, talent shows, special guests and much more.

We've expanded our program to include middle and high school students this year. This has proven very successful with both the parents and the participants. We provide different activities for these age groups and they appreciate a different experience compared to the younger age group. Activities include visiting the youth center with pool tables, stage, café sitting, etc. Community involvement is also important with this age group, so we've paired them up with younger groups for mentoring and socialization.

The cost of the program is very reasonable for parents and families. The City of Jacksonville believes in the value this program offers and a majority of the costs are subsidized. The fee is \$10 per child, per month of afterschool program. Financial Aid is available for qualifying participants, with the reduced fee being \$5 per month. This structure allows families of all socioeconomic backgrounds to attend this program, providing a quality and safe program for children. We have a very high rate of registrations on a monthly basis, with many sites maxing out, with a waiting list. We look forward to expanding our program to include additional sites as well as before school programs

City of Rocky Mount Youth Involvement

The Human Relations Department provides several opportunities to engage youth in civic and governmental activities. Some of which include:

- ❖ Youth Council – the Youth Council is a state chartered organization consisting of area high school students. They serve as an advisory committee on youth affairs to local government and initiate programs and projects to benefit youth and the community.

Currently, there are twenty-five active members from various cultural backgrounds. They have attended Youth Leadership Conferences during this fiscal year and assisted with Keep America Beautiful projects. They hosted a Mini-Grant Conference, which netted grants for eighteen projects throughout North Carolina. They sponsored a Race/Gender Dialogue for Youth to discuss diversity issues within Rocky Mount. They assisted Parks and Recreation with the Christmas for Seniors project. They perform a number of community service projects.

Some of the Youth Council members recently attended the Youth Legislative Assembly in Raleigh. Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA) is a mock legislative session where high school students voice their opinions and vote on issues concerning local, state and national government. The three-day session is patterned after the N.C. General Assembly. At the conclusion, a final report is drafted and distributed to the governor and legislators.

Each year in January, the MLK, Jr. Commission, under the leadership of the Human Relations Department, sponsors an Oratorical Contest and Talent Hunt. The students write and recite an essay based on the theme that is chosen by the MLK Commission. This year fifteen students competed in the Oratorical Contest. The Talent Hunt is a program that allows high school students to demonstrate their talent in classical music vocally or instrumentally. Seven students applied, but due to illness, only three performed.

The Human Relations Department also assists in finding community service projects for students that need credit for scholarships or other requirements for high school.

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities, staffed by Human Relations, presents a scholarship to a young person with a disability that plans to attend a two- or four- year college for the upcoming year. The Commission also recognizes a disabled student each year at their service banquet in October.