



# New Jersey Youth Corps of Sussex County

Serving Sussex & Northern Warren County

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Cohort 1 of FY18 continued to take the HiSet during the month of October. Corpsmembers kept focused on their academics and 8 out of 15 Corpsmembers passed all sections of the HiSet this month and have earned their High School Diplomas. 11 Corpsmembers will successfully graduate from the NJYC program on November 1st 2017.

Corpsmembers had the opportunity to continue to work at Project Self-Sufficiency throughout the end of the program. They were able to show their appreciation for the NJYC site by clearing retention ponds as well as prepping the extensive gardens for winter. Corpsmembers also served regularly at Little Sprouts Early Learning Center. The children looked forward to playing with the Corpsmembers.

NJYC of Sussex's second cohort of FY18 has officially started. New Corpsmembers have been preparing for their first day, along with NJYC staff. 18 Corpsmembers attended the first few days of Orientation that began on October 27th. Cohort 2 is focusing on team building and life skills to prepare them for the rest of the 16 week program. NJYC staff is excited to be working with another group full of great potential.



***Pictured Left: Corpsmembers building bridges to learn about architecture and gravity.***



***Pictured Right: NJYC of Sussex clearing out a retention pond at Project Self-Sufficiency during community service.***

***Pictured Below: Corpsmembers unloading food pantry items donated to Project Self-Sufficiency.***



***Pictured Below are Corpsmembers who helped take a donation of school supplies for the upcoming cohorts this year.***



# SPOTLIGHT

## Career Fair

Corpsmembers had an opportunity to attend a Career Fair hosted at PSS this month. Before Corpsmembers attended the Career Fair they attended seminars to prepare for the Career Fair and perfected their resumes and cover letters.

At the Career Fair they met with over 35 employers, educational institutes, and other employment services that included DeVry University, Perona Farms, KEEP INC. and FedEx. Corpsmembers also attended a seminar on Resumes and Job Searching during the Career Fair. They learned about the importance of networking and how social media can assist in actively looking for employment.

## Hibachi Lunch Celebration and Graduation

As Cohort 1 of FY18 is coming to a close, the Corpsmembers decided that they would like to celebrate their accomplishments by taking a trip. After much research and consideration, the trip for a fancy Hibachi lunch was chosen. All Corpsmembers enjoyed a 3 course meal, as well as an interactive show as the food was prepared. For most of the NJYC of Sussex members, this was an altogether new experience and the food, show and company was enjoyed by all!

Corpsmembers are eagerly awaiting Graduation. They completed the program on October 27th and our Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for November 1st. All Corpsmembers were part of the planning for this event. They decided on the theme, decorations, catering and speakers. All NJYC staff are excited to spend the evening with the Corpsmembers. They have achieved so much and New Jersey Youth Corps of Sussex and Project Self-Sufficiency is incredibly proud of all the Corpsmembers.



*Pictured above and below are Corpsmembers enjoying their final trip as a cohort. NJYC of Sussex was able to enjoy a Hibachi lunch together to celebrate.*



*Pictured below is NJYC of Sussex clearing out one of many gardens at Project Self-Sufficiency. Corpsmembers were able to get all the gardens on campus ready for the winter season.*



# SPOTLIGHT

## Graduation

NJYC of Sussex's first cohort of FY18 had their graduation ceremony on November 1st with seven Corpsmembers in attendance. It was a time of celebration with family and friends for their accomplishment of graduating from the program. In addition to receiving their graduation certificates, Corpsmembers were provided a formal dinner and slideshow. Graduates currently receive transition support from the program in order to obtain their HSE diplomas, job placements, and applying to college. Two of the graduating Corpsmembers will continue to work with Project Self-Sufficiency towards achieving their HSE diplomas. One of our graduates is enrolled at college and balancing time between college classes and work. Six additional graduates are either already employed or waiting to hear back from places of employment they applied to.

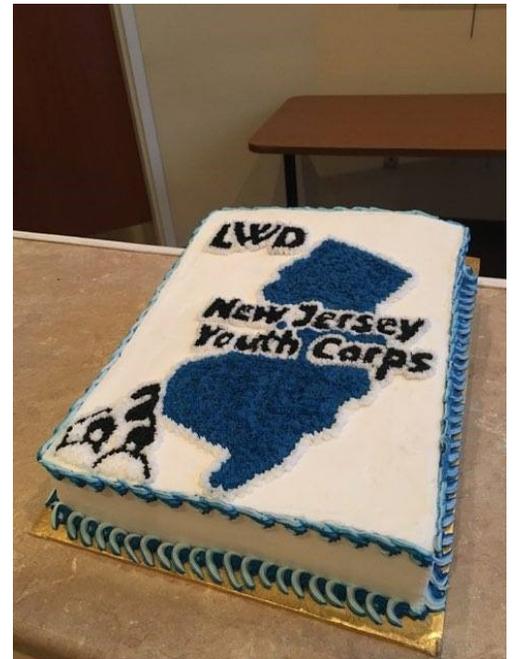
## Orientation

NJYC of Sussex FY18 cohort 2 Corpsmembers have completed their two-week orientation and been officially inducted into the program. There is a total of 18 Corpsmembers within the current cohort. Out of the 18 Corpsmembers, one is currently still in Orientation. Throughout their time with NJYC so far, Corpsmembers have engaged in various team bonding exercises, completed their initial TABE testing, and have been introduced to academic and community service days. On the sample service day, Corpsmembers assisted with a food delivery and outdoor gardening work. Staff congratulated Corpsmembers' induction by organizing a bowling trip at the end of Orientation.

## Apprenticeship Collaboration Event

Corpsmembers attended the National Apprenticeship Collaboration Event on November 14th in New Brunswick that was hosted by the Middlesex Youth Corp Program. This event was educational and informative about apprenticeship opportunities within the careers of welding, electric, culinary, and construction. Additional New Jersey Youthcorps from Trenton, Camden, Phillipsburg, Newark, Atlantic, and Jersey City were also in attendance.

During their time there, Corpsmembers were introduced and welcomed by several individuals that work within the Department of Labor. Among those individuals was Patricia Jordan, NJYC State Director, whom provided a warming welcome to all in attendance. Presentations by guest speakers followed the opening remarks by 5 guest speakers that discussed different apprenticeship programs as well as the qualifications needed in order to apply. The event concluded with an apprenticeship round robin that allowed all Youth Corps to interact with each speaker to ask additional ques-



Pictured above: Cake from the NJYC of Sussex's first cohort of FY18 graduation ceremony



Pictured above: Corpsmembers attending the National Apprenticeship Collaboration Event in Middlesex County.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

## HEZEKIAH TODD-GIVENS

Hezekiah is one of the standout Corpsmembers that make up FY18 Cohort 2 through his use of leadership skills and ability to motivate others. Hezekiah is an active participant during academics as well as a team player when engaging with others during service projects. His goal-oriented mindset is a motivating factor towards reaching his future career/personal goals.

After completion of the program, Hezekiah is determined to start a career in music production. Music is a passion of his and he already has personal experience with making music videos. He believes that getting a HSE diploma will help to turn his goals into a reality. NJYC is looking forward to see Hezekiah's continued growth throughout his time in the program.

## SHAINA ACEVEDO

Shaina is one of the 8 female Corpsmembers that make up FY18 Cohort 2. Her commitment to the program is shown through her dedication towards earning her HSE diploma. During her time in the program, Shaina provides a sense of positivity through her motivation and encouragement to others. She is enjoying the company of staff and fellow Corpsmembers as well as the academic classes and community service projects so far.

Shaina and her daughter are utilizing the childcare services available while enrolled in the NJYC program of Sussex. By earning her HSE through NJYC, Shaina believes she will create a better future for herself as well as for her daughter. Her future career goals are to attend college for either a cosmetology or special education degree. The staff of NJYC are excited for what Shaina will achieve.



**"I wanted to prove to myself I can get a high school diploma. NJYC is helping me do that."**

Shaina Acevedo



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