



# New Jersey Youth Corps of Sussex County

Serving Sussex & Northern Warren County

(973) 940-3510 • [www.projectsselfsufficiency.org](http://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org)



## Testing

April and May have been busy months of testing for Corpsmembers of FY18 Cohort 3! The majority of Corpsmembers are one step closer to earning their diplomas as they have begun their HiSET testing. Out of the 17 Corpsmembers, 12 have passed Reading, 9 passed History, 9 passed Science, and 3 passed Writing.

All Corpsmembers' accommodations have been approved by the state. To help prepare Corpsmembers for their HiSET testing, NJYC staff utilize HiSET practice tests and tutoring. NJYC of Sussex is fortunate to work with several volunteers who offer tutoring time to ensure that Corpsmembers are confident and prepared for all subject tests. In addition to their HiSET testing, Corpsmembers also took their 100 and 200 hour TABEs, and the majority of the Corpsmembers had a significant increase in their math scores.

## April & May Brought Showers of Life Skills & Service Learning Opportunities to NJYC of Sussex County!

Corpsmembers have participated in a variety of life skill seminars including stress management and preparation for the career fair. Corpsmembers created stress balls to help with any anxiety they might face with starting their HiSET testing. In addition, a computerized life skills program that Corpsmembers were introduced to was CW Pub. This is an online curriculum that allows the Corpsmembers to participate in online simulations that prepare them for real world situations. Through their avatars, Corpsmembers practice taking out loans, buying/leasing a car, and learning about the tools needed to become self-sufficient by managing their avatars through real world tasks. The remainder of life skills classes will focus on graduation/ final trip proposals.

Corpsmembers were introduced to a variety of hands-on working experiences. Corpsmembers worked at Project Self-Sufficiency at the Little Sprouts Learning Center, the onsite daycare, and assisting with construction and landscaping projects.

Corpsmembers have almost completed the first onsite shed, which will be used for storing our NJYC tools. After completion of the sheds, Corpsmembers will paint the outside as well as paint a NJYC moral on the inside. NJYC staff is extremely proud of all the Corpsmembers' hard work! Corpsmembers also began a new offsite service learning experience at Fairview Lake YMCA in Stillwater, NJ. A total of 15 Corpsmembers attended in addition to two NJYC staff and one volunteer.

# SPOTLIGHT



## *Career Fair Highlights*

On Thursday, April 19, 2018, 11 Corpsmembers attended the career fair at the Project Self-Sufficiency's campus. Over 50 employers, employment services, educational services, and the military were in attendance at the fair. NJYC staff prepared Corpsmembers for the career fair by presenting seminars on appropriate attire, elevator speeches, and practicing mock interviews during life skills. All Corpsmembers created their first resume for this event! When the Corpsmembers first arrived at the career fair they attended a breakout seminar on interview skills presented by two representatives from MARS Chocolate North America. Corpsmembers learned about the interview process and got interviewing tips when applying for jobs. After the seminar, Corpsmembers had the opportunity to network, hand out their resumes and practice their elevator pitches with the employers. Several Corpsmembers have already heard back from employers for potential interviews!

## *Midpoint Celebratory Luncheon*

FY18 Cohort 3 celebrated their halfway point with a luncheon! Corpsmembers decided to celebrate with pizza. Midpoint superlatives were also distributed to several Corpsmembers to acknowledge their hard work and dedication during NJYC. The superlatives included: Class Advocate, Most Hardworking on Community Service, Most Hardworking on Academics, and Best Attendance. Corpsmembers that received superlatives were given a certificate to take home. NJYC staff is excited to see the success all Corpsmembers will achieve within the final eight weeks of the program!



Pictured Above: Three Corpsmembers attending the Family Expo.

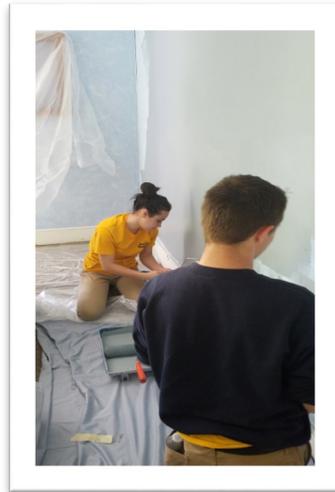
## **\* Family Expo \***

Project Self-Sufficiency held their annual Family Expo event on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Over 50 families were registered for the Expo! Families got to interact with representatives from local social service and health organizations to learn more about healthcare, parenting skills, and more. Three of FY18 Cohort 3 Corpsmembers volunteered to represent New Jersey Youth Corps at the PSS booth and to inform families about what the program is about. In addition, three breakout seminars were presented to the families to educate them on the topics of early intervention, calming strategies when a child is having tantrums, and working with the child study teams in schools. Current NJYC Corpsmembers and Alumni had an opportunity to attend this community education event!

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Waterloo Village

Throughout May, Corpsmembers have been providing service at Waterloo Village, which is a restored 19th century canal town in Byram Township. Waterloo had all the services necessary for canal operation such as an inn, a general store, a church, a blacksmith shop, and a watermill. Corpsmembers are enjoying working on a historical site and learning while they complete their service tasks! On their first day at Waterloo, Corpsmembers were introduced to Tim Nicinski, the onsite Pastor at Waterloo United Methodist Church. Corpsmembers were assigned their first community service project consisting of painting multiple rooms within one of Waterloo's many historical buildings. Over three days of service completed at Waterloo, Corpsmembers worked together with various volunteers and accomplished painting five different rooms. NJYC staff is extremely proud of how hard all Corpsmembers have worked and are looking forward to future projects at Waterloo during the remaining four weeks of FY18 Cohort 3!



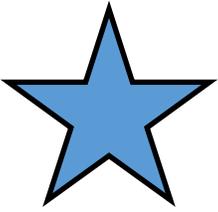
## Training Opportunities

### *\*Enough Abuse\**

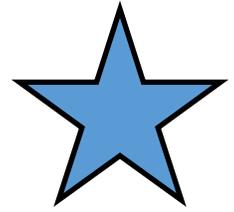
Corpsmembers of Cohort 3 FY18 attended the Enough Abuse training in May that was held at the Project Self-Sufficiency campus. The purpose of this free educational training was to bring awareness about detecting the signs of child sexual abuse. During the presentation, a video was shown about the implications that sexual abuse can have on the victim as well as the surrounding family. There was a debriefing period following the video in which Corpsmembers got to discuss their feelings and reactions from the video. The presentation concluded with resources being offered to the Corpsmembers as referrals. All eight Corpsmembers that were in attendance received a certificate of completion.

### *\*Pregnancy Prevention\**

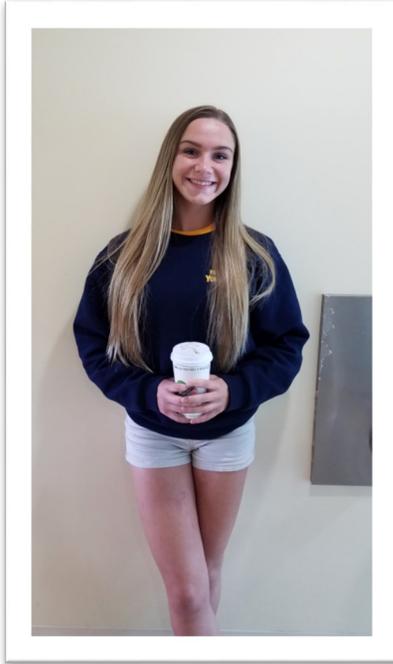
Corpsmembers received three educational presentations from Michelle Kinney, a representative of Public Health Nursing, located in Newton, NJ. This local agency educates Corpsmembers of all cohorts regarding the importance of promoting good, safe health by providing preventative educational services. One of the presentations to the Corpsmembers of FY18 Cohort 3 focused on pregnancy prevention and provided information on sexually transmitted diseases. Corpsmembers were informed about different STDs that can result through unprotected sexual intercourse as well as the health risks associated with them. Abstinence and using protection were a main highlight point of the presentation towards promoting pregnancy prevention. The other two presentations were on HPV and testicular cancer.



## Corpsmember Spotlight



### ***Chloe Wagner***



Chloe is one of eight female Corpsmembers in FY18 Cohort 3. She applied for NJYC after trying online school. Chloe's time in NJYC is well spent as she excels in the classroom and is a tremendous worker on community service projects. Chloe has passed 4 HiSET tests and has only Math remaining. Chloe will be receiving tutoring from NJYC volunteers towards preparing her for her final test. In recognition of her hard work, NJYC rewarded her with the 'Most Hardworking Academic' superlative during the FY 18 Cohort 3 Midpoint Luncheon.

After the program, Chloe plans on continuing to work and save up money so she feels more financially secure. She has an open mind towards her future career path as she is considering different careers, including personal training, nutrition, and marine biology. Chloe is interested in attending Warren County Community College in the future. NJYC staff is very proud of everything Chloe has accomplished!

### ***Sean Gill***

"Getting to know people here gives you a great outlook on life." - CW

During his time in NJYC, Sean has been a standout in respect to his overall work ethic. With community service, Sean shows no hesitation towards trying new projects. He is enjoying all aspects of the program, and is finding it easier to stay motivated than when he was in high school. Sean has passed 3 of his HiSET tests with the remaining two in Writing and Math. Sean was honored as NJYC's 'Most Hardworking during Community Service' Corpsmember, and continues to live up to that title. NJYC staff is extremely proud of all of Sean's success so far! Sean is interested in finding work after completion of the cohort. He has past work experience in landscaping and customer service, and is considering working with his father and uncle towards making money and expanding his skills of work experience.



"I never get bored at NJYC like I did in the past. It's a great program." - SG

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### ***Alumni Updates!***

Corpsmembers of FY18 Cohort 2 are continuing to work hard and taking the appropriate steps towards achieving their goals. Three Corpsmembers have taken the Accuplacer at Sussex County Community College and will begin taking college courses in the Fall 2018 semester. The majority of Corpsmembers that were focusing on making money following completion of their cohort have secured employment for the summer within a variety of different jobs, such as receptionist, landscaping work, working at a pizzeria, and housekeeping work. Additionally, a Corpsmember of FY18 Cohort 1 has begun his HiSET testing after waiting patiently for his accommodations to be approved. NJYC staff is proud to see everything that has been accomplished so far!