



Youth Strategies Presents Summer Program

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Thirty-five young people in Washington County will have the chance to change their course this summer when Youth Strategies - with the help of the state's Workforce Center, presents its summer program. Each of the 35 will be paired with a trained mentor for the ten week program. Eight weeks will be spent on the job, with 25 hour work weeks that include one day of training.

Each participant will be placed in a job either at the Family Resource Center in Springdale or at one of two new brand programs, Green Team Landscaping or Re-Cycles. The mentors include both college aged interns, studying for a degree in social work, and adult volunteers from local churches. The kids are selected based on risk factors including economic needs.

"Live, Learn, Lead" is the theme of the training, Mike Fohner, Youth Strategies President-CEO said. It will include conflict resolution, personal goal setting, communication skills, dealing with failure, and workplace etiquette. They'll also learn about environmental issues and eco friendly methods.

In addition, each student will complete the Dave Ramsey curriculum, "Foundations of Personal Finance," and their parents will be encouraged to join them. The young people will establish checking and saving accounts.

Sometime during the session, each student will be asked to make a public presentation to increase their public speaking skills. They will also participate in a community service project.

When they complete the ten week program, each student will have a written resume, a physical health plan and they will be encouraged to complete a career readiness certification program. The work portion of the program covers eight weeks. The other two weeks will be spent back packing, bicycling and canoeing on the Buffalo River. The adventure activities help the teenagers develop self confidence and helps the mentors get to know their summer partner, Fohner explained.

Youth Strategies, headquartered in the Center for Nonprofit at JTL Shops, empowers young people to reach their potential by providing strategies, resources, opportunities, and environments for young people, as well as organizations working with young people, to discover and reach their potential according to the web site <http://www.youthstrategies.org>.