

Via Teen Summer Experience

Young people want to be connected to friends and family, and learn, work, and be respected for their choices. The teen years are critical to developing the social skills and peer networks that lead to success in young adult life, career development and independence.

Parents work to provide a life in which these opportunities are available for their child and help their child grow and mature so they can make the transition from school to adult life. Via Teen Summer Experience provides young adults ages 14 to 21 with educational, vocational and recreational activities in the community.

Via Teen Summer Experience provides...

- Life skills development for students transitioning from high school to adult life.
- Occupation awareness through job shadowing, career exploration, interview skills and resume preparation.
- Volunteer opportunities at more than 20 local organizations.
- Opportunities to participate in continuing education and enrichment courses.
- Recreational activities tailored to individual preferences.

Connecting to the Community...



Via Teen Summer Experience facilitates relationships between young adults and the communities in which they live, connecting teens to their community through recreational, social,

volunteer and educational activities. Via's Teen Summer Experience is an intensive 11-week program, with opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities that includes job shadowing and career counseling, volunteer activities in a variety of inclusive settings, and a series of recreational and team-building activities.

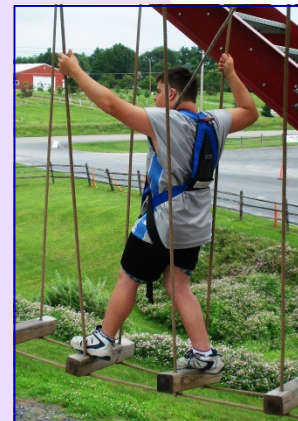
The teen years are critical to developing the social skills and peer networks that lead to success in young adult life, career development and independence. Via's Teen Summer Experience provides young adults, ages 14 to 21, with educational, vocational and recreational activities in the community.



Exciting Opportunities...

Via partners with more than 75 small and large employers and 42 local agencies and institutions of higher education throughout the Lehigh Valley. Through these partnerships, Via Teen Summer Experience provides opportunities for teens and young adults to participate in:

- Inclusive learning and volunteer activities
- Research post-secondary educational opportunities
- Attend non-credit classes and recreational activities with their peers
- Complete career interest inventories
- Job shadow, job site visits and career exploration
- Mock interviews with Human Resource managers at Lehigh Valley companies
- Resume preparation
- Recreational activities including swimming and sports
- Excursions (Martin Guitar, NorthStar Adventure, Ungerer, St. Luke's Hospital, Crayola Factory, Eagles Training Camp and more).



336 W. Spruce Street • Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-317-8000 • ViaNet.org • Via@ViaNet.org

Via Teen Summer Experience

connect in your community



Focus On You...



Via Teen Summer Experience works individually with each teen and their family to develop educational, recreational and vocational goals for their summer program. The goals focus on the individual interests of the teen and center on

developing skills and experiences that further develop their social and vocational skill sets, as they prepare to transition from school to adult life.

Teens and young adults will have the opportunity to develop their social skills, experience vocational exploration through volunteering and research career opportunities. All of these skills help prepare young adults to become successful members of the community and workforce upon their graduation.

Volunteer sites include:

- The Rodale Institute
- Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Crime Victims Council
- 2nd Harvest Food Bank
- St. Luke's Hospital Day Camp
- 3rd St. Alliance
- Norwestcap Food Bank
- Heartland Hospice
- Notre Dame Church

Job site visits include:

- St. Luke's Hospital
- Martin Guitar
- Ungerer & Company
- Rodale Books
- Allentown YWCA
- Kurious Kids Daycare
- Apple Bee's



"Our daughter really enjoyed the variety of activities. She loved volunteering with Meals on Wheels, swimming with her new friends. The staff at Via interacted with us and our daughter and

made us feel welcome. Our daughter had a really great summer." ~ Parent

"We really liked the job and volunteer opportunities and the staff were very nice. The Via staff really seemed to know my son after he attended just a few times. I am definitely interested in my son coming back for future summers." ~ Parent



"There is no other program like this for teens with disabilities in the Lehigh Valley. Via's Teen Summer Experience helps students develop life skills they need as they make the transition from high school to adult life. They learn about their community, they do career shadowing and mock interviews with HR reps from companies like Olympus and Martin Guitar, and they volunteer at organizations across the Lehigh Valley."

~ Via Staff

Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities like cerebral palsy, downs syndrome, autism and mental retardation. Via's mission is to provide leadership, support, opportunities and resources for people with disabilities so they may be independent, productive and enjoy full lives within the community.

Via envisions a time when all people will have equal access to appropriate developmental and educational services, friends who care and relationships that are rich and meaningful, a rewarding career of their choice, and a satisfying retirement. Everyone deserves the chance to succeed and, through the support of our community, Via is able to provide support for the people we serve.



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Via Teen Summer Experience 2010 *Contact Information*

Jolene Fetherman (610-317-8000 x465 | J.Fetherman@ViaNet.org) will be the primary contact for the following:

- Neil B.
- Allie B.
- Arielle B.
- Ben C.
- Daniel D.
- Daniel K.
- Donny L.
- Patrick L.
- Timothy O.
- Tyler P.
- Dan R.
- Christina S.
- Ethan S.
- Evan W.
- Bryan W.
- Josh W.

Megan Sefcik (610-317-8000 x423 | M.Sefcik@ViaNet.org) will be the primary contact for the following:

- Michael D.
- John D.
- Dakiera G.
- Jay K.
- Stacy L.
- Tyler M.
- Darren M.
- Patrick M.
- Chris N.
- Brian S.
- Julian S.
- Julianna S.
- Sean S.
- Tyler T.

Via Teen Summer Experience 2010 Volunteer Site Details

Volunteer Site	Duties	Things to Know
Care Alternatives Hospice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerical 	
Cedarbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Interactions with Residents • Crafts and Music Makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need Clearances
Cat Shack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socializing Cats • Cleaning Cages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are allergy issues, please contact coordinator
Cancer Support Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerical • Program Set Up • Program Reminder Calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to follow HIPPA laws
New Bethany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Pantry • Soup Kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close toe shoe required
Rodale Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor work, dress accordingly.
Habitat for Hummanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close toe shoe required
St. Luke's Neighborhood Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting Children with Activities 	
SPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking Care of Animals • Landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are allergy issues, please contact coordinator
Westside Foodbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close toe shoe required
Crime Victims Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerical/Bulk Mailing 	
Lehigh Valley Hospital Marathon for Via	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hang Flyers • Talk to Business Owners • Mailings 	
NORWESCAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing donations
Allentown Senior Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and Outdoor Maintenance 	
Phoebe Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handing out Menus and Food • Taking Care of Birds • Assisting Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have TB test (will do there, but need to be willing to get shot)

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Frequently Asked Questions

Should I pack a lunch every day?

This is up to you. You can pack or buy as often as you want. Our staff can accommodate both choices.

When will we go swimming?

Swimming is one of the recreational activities that the teens will do as the opportunity arises and if the group suggests it. You should have your swim items (bathing suit, towel, sunscreen) with you everyday so when the opportunity does arise, you are ready.

What should I wear?

You can wear the same thing you wear to school. Make sure it is appropriate for a work place. There will be days when you will be doing farm work or garden work, so if you want to pack an extra outfit just in case, feel free to do so. You should ALWAYS have or wear sneakers as many volunteer sites require clothes toed shoes.

Will I get a schedule ahead of time?

No, due to the nature of the program, schedules are ever changing. If you need something special for the next day, you will receive a note, phone call, or e-mail home the previous day.

When will I receive my daily documentation?

You should receive your documentation from the previous time you were in the next time you are in. If you are repetitively not receiving your daily documentation, please inform your coordinator.

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Things in the Works

- Horseback Riding
- Job-site tour of a hotel
- Tour of City Hall
- Tour of Lehigh County Courthouse
- Job-site tour of Wegman's
- Job-site tour of Olympus
- Music Therapy Session
- 2 Day trips to Philadelphia
- Rock Climbing
- Strawberry Acres
- Musikfest/other local fairs
- In the Zone and Independence Family Fun Center
- Dorney Park Visit/Job Assessment
- Job-site tours of a restaurant
- Job-site tour of a Salvage Yard
- Young Eagles Program
- Job-site tour of Car Dealership
- Supported Employment Info. Session
- Steam Engine Ride
- Lost River Caverns
- Blood Hounds Search and Rescue Demonstration
- Attending the Golf Classic
- WFMZ and Radio Station Tour
- Zumba Class
- Workshop with Dr. Stephen Shore
- HCQU Trainings
- Motivational Speech from Famous Person
- College Visits

WE WELCOME ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS!

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