



## 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, 13 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's Teen Summer Experience is a transition-focused program for teens and young adults, ages 14-21, with varying disabilities. The program objectives are to introduce the vocational, post-secondary education, and independent living options available to

participants upon graduation. Via provides instruction on a variety of skills throughout the summer to assist participants achieve their personal goals.

To enhance their skill sets and knowledge of community resources, Via introduces teens to volunteer options that provide opportunities for vocational and social development. Teens visit numerous Lehigh Valley employers and meet with human resources representatives to learn about job opportunities, interviewing techniques, employment applications, and the qualifications that are required for various positions. In addition, participants complete career interest surveys, develop resumes, and prepare for job interviews.

Via understands that the summer is meant for fun so teens participate in a variety of social and recreational activities such as baseball games, swimming, sports, and picnics. Highlights from previous summers include the North Star Adventure team

building activity, the Young Eagles program, and the Franklin Institute. Via seeks to discover those "teachable" moments in all the teens do, whether it is ordering food at a baseball game, talking to friends at the local swimming pool, or asking for a job application while shopping.

### 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).



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# 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
- Lehigh Valley Zoo
- Cedarbrook Nursing Home
- Sacred Heart Hospital
- 3rd St. Alliance
- 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
- Wegmans



*"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, Down syndrome, autism and intellectual disability. 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.

The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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