

Summer Programs



**SWEP (Summer Work Experience Program),
Neighborhood Experiences, and the Youth
Summer Program.**

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

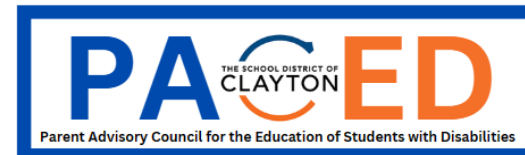
Via Zoom



November 2023

Guest Speakers

- **Rhonda L. Hembree, Director of Leisure Services, St. Louis Arc**
- **Stephanie McDowell, Youth and Family Supervisor, Paraquad**
- **Janice Ivey, PLB Coordinator, MERS Goodwill**
- **Candice Zottarelle, Employment Director, Paraquad**



November 2023

Welcome

Please note the following:

- This meeting is being recorded.
- If you are not a guest speaker, please keep your camera off and remain on mute.
- After each segment there will be time for Q&A.
- Please put all your questions in the “Chat”.
- Contact information for each of the guest speakers will be made available at the end of the presentation.
- The recording of this meeting will be available within 48 hours on the Clayton PAC.ED webpages. Please put your name and email in the chat for updates.



November 2023

Rhonda L. Hembree
Director of Leisure Services, St. Louis Arc



Neighborhood Experiences is an 8-week, career-oriented, and community-based, summer teen employment training project. It provides individuals with tools needed for career awareness, exploration, and discovery of volunteer and or work sites in their neighborhoods.

- June – August
- Monday – Friday
- 9am – 4pm
- Ages 13 – 20
- Cost \$300
- Diagnosis of developmental/intellectual disability
- Reside in St. Louis County or St. Louis City

Please Contact Donny Conner for more information at 314-817-2293 or dconner@slarc.org



Stephanie McDowell
Youth and Family Supervisor
Paraquad

Skills and Education

Youth and Family Services

Paraquad works with youth with disabilities to increase independence and learn self-advocacy skills. The Youth and Family staff assists youth and their families in exploring goals, plans for adulthood, and independence in a supportive peer environment.

Special Education Advocacy:

Assists parents and older youth in learning about and advocating for their educational rights. Assistance ranges from providing consultation on the IEP process, to attending meetings alongside the family to advocate for the best services.

Youth Group:

Focuses on social and recreational activities that promote the development of skills needed for increased independence and self-advocacy in a peer-to-peer setting.

Skills and Education Youth and Family Services

Youth Transition:

Youth can explore their options for education, employment, living arrangements, and plan their own path to adulthood with encouragement from family and community.

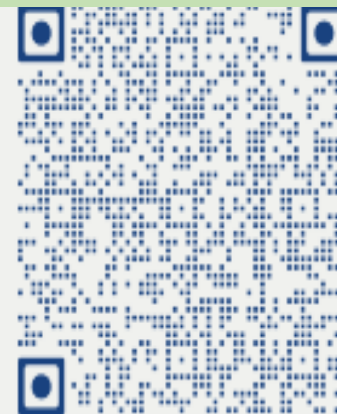
Youth Summer Services:

Offers a variety of hands-on experiences focused on developing independent living and pre-employment skills. Activities can range from a single workshop to a month-long, Monday through Friday camp experience. Programs and activities vary from year to year.



Skills and Education Youth and Family Services

For more information, call (314) 289-4200 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm or email contactus@paraquad.org



[Learn More](#)



Employment Culinary Training Program

The Bloom Culinary Training Program prepares adults with disabilities for a career in hospitality. Following program completion, Paraquad's certified employment team provides graduates with support to ensure long-term success, including helping graduates find jobs.

Skills and Education Continuing Education

Paraquad's Continuing Education classes provide the tools to develop independent living skills. Participants work together as a community to build social skills through interactions with each other. Class topics may include cooking, social skills, book club, and community access.

"Sexual Health & Healthy Relationships" sexuality *education* program

Thanks to the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (MODDC) grant, Paraquad is providing comprehensive sexuality education to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in a safe and supportive space.

HAVE A *BLAST* THIS SUMMER *2023*

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

During this four-week summer program, you'll explore your future! Each week, we'll experience new things and dream about what's next: where to live, whether college is part of your plans, what jobs you're interested in, and how to navigate the community. And you'll do it all with friends who support your dreams!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Ages: 16-21

2023 Dates:

- Week 1- June 6-8
- Week 2- June 13-15
- Week 3- June 20-22
- Week 4- June 27-29

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Register by: April 3, 2023

Contact: Stephanie McDowell
smcdowell@paraquad.org or
314-289-4265

Janice Ivey, PLB Coordinator
MERS Goodwill

Candice Zottarelle, Employment
Director, Paraquad



Summer Work Experience Program 2024

Summer Work Experience Program

- SWEP Mission – is to provide a meaningful work experience that will assist students in a smoother transition into the adult world of work.
- Participants focus on learning and growing in their roles as employees and co-workers.
- Each participant works to improve their skills in a variety of ways such as increasing effective communication, taking direction, coping with change, increasing self-confidence, improving task focus, working with greater independence, acquiring new work skills, and increasing work quality and speed.

Eligibility

Welcome to the Summer Work Experience Program 2024. SWEP is made possible through funding by The Productive Living Board. The Lead Agency charged with administering the program is MERS/Goodwill. In order to meet SWEP eligibility requirements, students must:

- Be returning to school in the fall.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Be residents of St. Louis County throughout the Summer Work Experience Program.
- Be able to work with the supervision of a Job Coach.
- Not be participating in Extended School Year Program (ESYP).
- Be willing to commit to work the full 8 weeks of SWEP.
- Be able to provide your own transportation to and from worksite.
- *Have a completed Teacher Input Form on file.*

This summer, funding is available to support approximately 200 participants. If more than 200 eligible students apply, the oldest eligible applicants will be selected to participate.

Eligibility Cont.

Program participants are assigned to a SWEP Supporting Agency based on geographic area and support needs. The role of the Supporting Agency is to develop worksites that meet the needs of their assigned students and are a good match for those students' skills. The Supporting Agency also provides job coaching support to help ensure a successful summer work experience.

Once you apply and have been approved you will be transferred to an agency closest to your home.

Below is a list of participating agencies for SWEP 2024:

- Paraquad
- UCP
- Easter Seals
- Center for Specialized Services
- St. Louis Arc
- MERS/Goodwill

- **Easter Seals Midwest** (NE County: Ferguson, Normandy, Jennings, Bellefontaine, Spanish Lake):
- **UCP Heartland** (North Central County: Florissant, Hazelwood):
- **St. Louis ARC** (NW County: Maryland Heights, Bridgeton, St. Ann, Creve Coeur):
- **Paraquad** (Mid-County: Clayton, Overland, Richmond Heights, University City, Olivette, Pagedale, Berkeley, Maplewood):
- **MERS/Goodwill** (Mid-West County: Brentwood, Des Peres, Ladue, Wildwood, Fenton, Eureka, Manchester, Ballwin, Chesterfield):
- **Center for Specialized Services** (South County: Sappington, Oakville, Sunset Hills, Crestwood, Mehlville, Lemay, Affton, Kirkwood, Webster Groves):

SWEP 2024 Timeline

Beginning Nov 27, 2023	SWEP applications are distributed to all schools and potential participants.
Mon, Feb 5 2024	SWEP First Priority Application Deadline. (All applications received after this date will be put on the wait list)
Fri, Mar 15	Acceptance letters are mailed to participants and families by Lead Agency.
Mar 4 – Apr 26	Intake interviews are scheduled and conducted by collaborating agencies.

Family FAQs

Q: Are SWEP participants paid for their work?

A: Yes, they are: SWEP participants receive the minimum wage for all hours they work.

Q: What do work shifts in the SWEP program look like?

A: All SWEP shifts occur during the work week (no weekends!). Depending on the employer, a student will likely work either 5 4-hour shifts, or 4 5-hour shifts during the week.

Q: Will they get a break?

A: Yes. Participants on 4-hour shifts receive a 15-minute break; participants on 5-hour shifts also receive an (unpaid) 30 minute lunch break.

Family FAQs

Q: My child will probably need help adjusting to work – will you provide that?

A: Yes: all job sites are staffed by one or more job coaches that work for the supporting agency. Coaches often work in special education, and are trained to support SWEPP participants.

Q: What kind of work will my child be doing?

A: That will vary from site to site, but could range from unpacking products to bagging groceries to setting tables to cleaning bathrooms. Your supporting agency representatives will have more details about the job sites they offer.

Family FAQs

Q: Will they work close to home?

A: Each agency will do their best to ensure that the site is close to home. No participant will have to travel cross-county to get to work, but we can't promise walking distance, either.

Q: We have vacation planned: can my child still participate in SWEP? *****NO*****

A: We ask for a commitment to the entire 8-week program. If a participant knows they'll miss more than 3 work days, SWEP probably isn't the right fit this Summer.

Q: Do you provide transportation?

A: No. Participants are responsible for their own transportation.

SWEP Contacts

- To find out more information regarding SWEP 2024 please contact Janice Ivey at MERS Goodwill.
- E-mail-Jivey@mersgoodwill.org
- Phone- 314-502-0977

Thank you to Paraquad's 2023 participating sites!

- St. Louis Zoo
- Orthwein Center
- Paraquad
- Schnucks-Overland
- Schnucks-St. John
- Schnucks-Richmond Heights
- Goodwill-U City

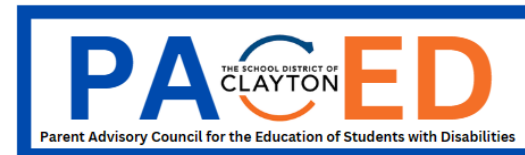
Thank you!!

Rhonda L. Hembree, Director of Leisure Services, St. Louis Arc
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RHembree@slarc.org

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September 2023