

Here are some of the things you could do this Summer:

- Learn non-visual techniques in Braille, cane travel, independent living, and the use of technology
- Meet blind peers from across the nation and develop lasting friendships
- Earn valuable paid employment experience (Work to Independence)
- Build confidence by exploring new places and participating in a range of activities
- Live in apartments on a college campus with blind peers and responsible blind instructors/mentors
- Develop a positive attitude about blindness

Apply Today for BISM's Work To Independence or Independence 101 Youth Programs!

At BISM, we have high expectations for students who are blind or have low vision. This Summer, you can build a foundation of skills, confidence, and experience that will help you to achieve your future goals!



To apply online visit www.bism.org/youth

The preferred application deadline is April 30, 2015.

All applicants will participate in an informal telephone interview prior to acceptance into the program.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH THE APPLICATION OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Sarah Baebler (sbaebler@bism.org) or
Melissa Lomax (mlomax@bism.org) at
410-737-2642 or visit www.bism.org/youth**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland
3345 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21227

We positively change people's attitudes about blindness

BLIND INDUSTRIES & SERVICES OF MARYLAND

BISM Youth Services 2015

For Blind and Low Vision High School & Middle School Students

WORK TO INDEPENDENCE

June 20 - August 8, 2015

High School

Middle School

July 18 - August 8, 2015

INDEPENDENCE 101



We positively change people's attitudes about blindness!

Build Confidence with BISM Youth Summer Programs

Blind and low vision students desire the ability and confidence to experience fulfilling, independent lives. BISM helps to make that desire a reality.

During the summer, BISM's youth department offers comprehensive residential programs for blind middle and high school students.

The youth program staff is comprised of qualified blind adults, providing the students with individualized non-visual life skills instruction and mentoring.

WORK TO INDEPENDENCE

June 20 - August 8, 2015

High School

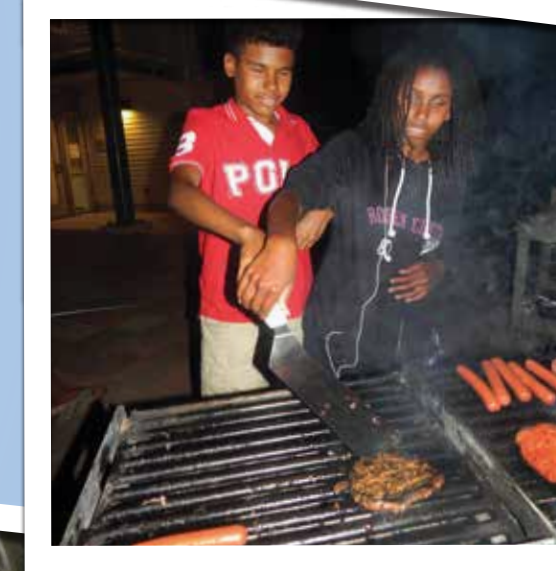
Seven-week program develops the life skills and confidence necessary to smoothly transition to college or employment. For Blind and Low Vision High School Students, with priority given to juniors, seniors and recent high school graduates.

INDEPENDENCE 101

July 18 - August 8, 2015

Middle School

Three-week comprehensive life skills program focuses on building confidence and independence. For Blind and Low Vision Middle School Students (Grades 5-8)



Blindness Skills Training: Qualified blind instructors teach Braille, technology, cane travel, and independent living classes, as well as adjustment to blindness seminars and peer support discussions. Students live in apartments with blind mentors, together they share cooking and cleaning responsibilities.

College Prep: For Work To Independence students interested in college, classes focus on topics such as accessible technology and books, financial resources, navigating a college campus, stress management, proper note-taking techniques, classroom conduct, and more. Students also learn how to advocate for themselves and get involved on their campus!

Work Experience: For the final three weeks of the program, students work at local businesses and organizations for 16-24 hours a week. Students earn minimum wage or greater and receive a check for hours worked upon graduation from the program.

Confidence-building activities: Each week, students will participate in one large and at least one small activity. Activities may include trips to the mall and movies, rock climbing, zip-lining, sports outings, and out-of-town trips. Past trips have included Washington D.C., New York City, and the NFB convention in Orlando.

Like most summer camps, students participate in a wide array of social and recreational activities. Just as many of their sighted peers are meeting new friends at camp, Independence 101 participants will build a peer support network with other blind middle school students.

Blindness Skills Training: Students receive instruction, in a small classroom setting, in Braille, technology, cane travel, and independent living. Blind instructors/mentors reside with students on a college campus in the Baltimore area and students assist with daily household needs.

Fun Activities: Activities may include visits to the mall and movies, rock climbing, sports activities, trips to amusement parks, visiting points of interest in Baltimore, taking a train to Washington D.C., and more!

