



141 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050

SUMMER YOUTH VOCATIONAL PROGRAM (SYVP)

Pre-Employment Services for Transition Age Youth

HKNC works closely with schools, Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services programs to ensure youth who are deaf-blind benefit from the services provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA provides the means for students 14-22 to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Specifically, the HKNC Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) prepares youth for competitive integrated employment and incorporates the five (5) areas under WIOA:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work based learning experiences
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in post-secondary education
- Work place readiness
- Instruction in Self Advocacy

Helen Keller National Center offers a summer work program for transition age youth: ages 16-25. The program provides participants with the opportunity to engage in career exploration and participate in a community based work experience. In addition, the program provides opportunities to gain self awareness and determination through socializing and meeting with others who are deaf-blind. HKNC offers a unique adult learning community where peers, mentors and deaf-blind leaders share experiences, perspectives and support one another's learning.

The Helen Keller National Center will provide participants with a comprehensive vocational experience designed to meet their interests and aspirations. This six-week program will offer opportunities to gain knowledge and practical experience in the following areas: *Vocational Exploration, Building Work history, Self-Determination and Advocacy, Communication Methods, Orientation & Mobility at Work Site, Assistive Aids & Devices, Interviewing Skills and Employment.*

Through the process of vocational exploration each participant will acquire knowledge in **self-awareness and knowledge of the world of work and mature decision making**. **Self-awareness** is the process of gathering information about your interests, abilities and values. **"World of Work"** exploration involves getting information about the different careers that might fit a participant's interests, values and abilities. **Mature decision making** is the process of exploring different alternatives, narrowing down the possibilities and then choosing the right alternative.

OUTCOMES: Participants will have the opportunity to:

- 1) Participate in a community work experience for pay with support of a one-on-one vocational trainer
- 2) Develop a reference point for work by building a work history
- 3) Gain self-awareness about strengths/interests
- 4) Identify future skill building areas
- 5) Learn and share with others
- 6) Develop a work portfolio

HKNC has many works sites including retail, bookstores, food service, pet grooming, town clerk's office and data entry among others. The workday will be 15 hours per week with afternoons used for group classes. Collaborative learning will occur with opportunities to discuss the workday and debrief with peers.

It's not ALL work! There will be time in the evening and on the weekends to join in recreational activities, travel to New York City, participate in community outings and socialize with peers and staff.

The program fee is based on the following:

Classes

\$300/week x 6 weeks = \$1,800

Facility Usage

\$525 per week x 6 weeks = \$3,150

Vocational Trainer

20 hours at \$45.00 per hour = \$900/week x 6 weeks = \$5,400

Participant Work Stipend

\$180/week x 6 weeks = \$1,080

(Minimum wage pay at \$12 per hour for 15 hours)

Total six-week participation cost = \$11,430

(\$10,350 program fee + \$1080 participant wage)

2020 Program Dates

First session

June 8, 2020 – July 17, 2020 (Application deadline – April 10, 2020)

Second session

July 20, 2019 – August 28, 2020 (Application deadline – May 8, 2020)

For further information, please contact:

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or your local Regional Representative

<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/nationwide-services>