



A proud hub for AmeriCorps service in Northwestern PA



COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER INC. **AmeriCorps**

NEWSLETTER

AUG 2025



WINDING DOWN THE SUMMER OF 2025 AND GEARING UP FOR THE START OF THE 2025-2026 AMERICORPS PROGRAM YEAR

As we reflect on the accomplishments and impacts of the summer, we welcome inquiries concerning joining our service family either as a potential member or future host site. Check out our story at www.keystonesmiles.org.

WINDING DOWN SUMMER 2025

Canoe Trip

Staff and AmeriCorps members in Clarion, Venango and Mercer counties participated in a water safety training course and spent the day floating down the river in a canoe and stopping to eat and swim. Not only was it an educational day, but it was also a day full of fun and laughter. A great way to spend a summer day!

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LIGHT UP NIGHT: SAVE THE DATE



Members and staff complete water safety course.

Children's Night

Keystone SMILES staff and AmeriCorps members provided support for Horsethief Day festivities through a variety of ways: Children's Night, Community Bingo, Face Painting, help with setup and clean-up of events.



Members and staff support Children's Night at Horsethief Days 2025.

HORSETHIEF DAYS

Community Bingo

Keystone SMILES hosted BINGO on Saturday, August 16 for the annual Horsethief festivities. We are happy that our nonprofit is able to provide a cool and relaxing space for members of the community attending the festivities to play BINGO. The proceeds collected will be given to the planning committee for the 2026 Horsethief event.



Community members enjoy Bingo during Horsethief Days 2025.



Above: Summer Food Program pics
Right: Preschool Mural



PROGRAM WRAP UPS

Summer Food Programs

The last summer meals were delivered on Friday, August 15. We would like to thank the Keystone SMILES staff and AmeriCorps members who made this 10-week program possible and so impactful. We are very proud of our outcomes.

Total meals cooked, packed, and delivered to the homes of the families:

- Clarion Housing Authority, Clarion County: **7,879**
- Mercer County Housing Authority Communities: **6,466**
- Communities of East End and Siverly, Oil City, Venango County: **8,230**

Total meals served: 22,575!

Everyone who worked/served on this project knows it was a very HOT summer and it was a lot of hard work, but just think about all of the children that were impacted by the program. Unfortunately, every year the need is greater and we are already looking ahead to next summer by assessing how we can reach more families and make this program even better. Keystone SMILES exceeded 2024 totals by 5,949 meals. We believe this program made a difference!

Preschool Mural

AmeriCorps members in Knox finished their terms of summer service by refurbishing the murals for the preschool playground called Myers Park. Preschool students started the new school year on Wednesday, August 20 and were thrilled with the new improvements



Summer Students and Members at the Environmental Center in Knox

Summer programs in Knox, Mercer and Venango have also come to an end. We would like to thank all of our staff and AmeriCorps members for making it an unforgettable summer

"(A student) taught me many lessons like not to take life too seriously and sometimes just having fun is more important."
Mia Traister, AC Members

"Seeing (the children's) excitement and hearing them say they wanted to do more (STEM projects) was incredibly rewarding and made the summer experience even more special." Kyra Rodgers

"I had a great time serving with these wonderful children, teaching them about STEM activities. My team and I collaborated to create engaging and educational summer program activities."
Virtue Milford, AC Member



Knox STEM Team



United Way of Venango County

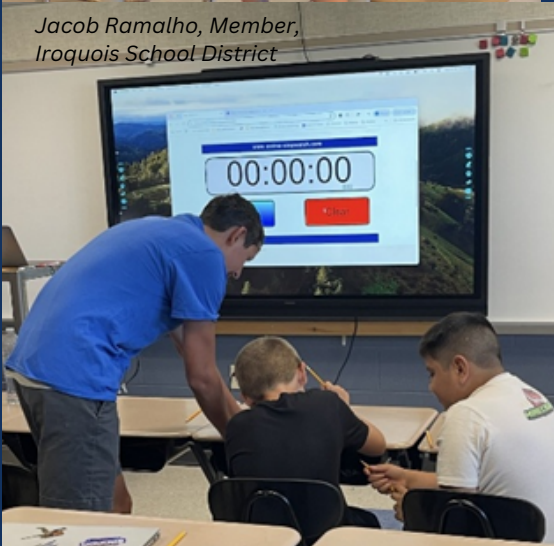
Colten Cunningham and Noah Taylor served with the United Way in Venango County where they participated in career camps.

"During my service I got to see many children learn, grow, and have fun; with the kids almost being new people when they left."
Colten Cunningham, AC Member

Aditiya Turaga, Member,
Fairview School District.



Jacob Ramalho, Member,
Iroquois School District



Jocelyn Tatarko
Member, Fairview
School District

Fairview and Iroquois School Districts and Regional Science Consortium

In Erie County AmeriCorps members served at Iroquois and Fairview school districts as well as the Regional Science Consortium at The Tom Ridge Environmental Center. These members focused on day camps and educational activities for the children in their areas.

"During my second term of service with AmeriCorps, I was excited to focus on engaging with students to teach them about STEM-related activities outside of the typical school structure." Jocelyn Tatarko (Fairview High School), AC Member

Jacob Ramalho, AC Member, served at Iroquois School District. They came up with a new way to learn multiplication tables. *"This motivated them to try as hard as they could to go fast with their math problems. This showed me how a little rule in a game can change the kid's total mindset about learning."*



AmeriCorps

GEARING UP FOR THE START OF KEYSTONE SMILES AMERICORPS 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR

Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center will be recruiting and hosting 137 AmeriCorps positions and 19 Host Sites including schools and nonprofits this program year. We will be kicked off the program year on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

KNOX
LIGHT UP
Night

21
NOVEMBER

AT 6PM

SAVE THE DATE!!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO

JOIN OUR PARADE!
SET UP A BOOTH OR ACTIVITY!
DONATE! VOLUNTEER!