

Youth/Parent Testimonials

“This program was a life changing experience for my son. Everyday he came home telling me of all the many life stories he heard from the elderly people he cared for daily. He didn’t let his work experience stop when the program ended for the year. He has taken his work experience and applied it to helping others in any way he can...and he finds it very rewarding.”

~Kotelia Scott, Parent

“This was one of the best experiences of my life. Because of the Summer Work Program, my patience level is higher, I think of others feelings more and it made me very responsible. I am even looking into a part-time job at the place I worked once I graduate.”

~Nikkita Jones,
Former SWP Employee

When asked how the Zion Township Summer Work Program enriched her life, Erica replied, “The Summer Work Program helped me learn to open up to the public and coworkers.”

~ Erica Loeper,
Former SWP Employee

Agency Testimonials

“I have to tell you I was pleasantly surprised with the quality of work the young people actually accomplished for us. All the kids assigned to my team demonstrated a degree of maturity and work ethic that frankly, I did not expect...These young workers assisted in several activities that not only enhanced our local parks, but also our community as a whole.”

~Mr. John Plowman,
Zion Park District

For more information:

Please contact Zion Township at **847-872-2811** for more information about becoming an agency placement or obtaining summer employment.

Zion Township is located at:

1015 – 27th Street, Zion IL 60099

Thank You!

A special thanks goes out to all of the agencies that currently provide placements for our youth. Without your dedication to the success of Zion, the Summer Work Program could not be all that it is today.



Zion Township

Zion Township

Summer Work Program

About Zion Township's Summer Work Program (SWP)

Zion Township's Summer Work Program (SWP) hires approximately 100 youth ages 14 and 15 for a six-week period during the summer. The youth are placed at different locations throughout the city in a wide variety of positions. Some examples of positions include outside maintenance work, light office clerical support, and daycare assistance. Because of their young age, youth are unable to use any power equipment while performing their duties and are scheduled to work three (3) hours per day for a total of fifteen (15) to twenty (20) hours per week.

This program enables youth to gain real life work experience, a sense of community, character education, knowledge of the application & hiring process, and how to manage money.

Although this is the youth's job and we expect the youth to fill out their own application, get their own letter of recommendation, and call in sick for themselves, we realize the importance of keeping the parents informed and involved throughout the process. Because of this, it is mandatory for parents to attend an orientation with their youth that is held in the evening to accommodate parent's work schedules. Parents will also be notified and consulted when disciplinary situations arise.

SWP Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Summer Work Program to educate Zion Township teens how to obtain and maintain employment while instilling character and a sense of community.

How do I apply?

In order to apply to be a part of the Zion Township Summer Work Program, **submit an application:**

- Applications become available at the beginning of April each year.
- Applications are due back to the Zion Township office at the beginning of May each year.
- Applications are available at Zion Township, Zion-Benton Township High School, Zion-Benton Public Library, Central Junior High School, Beach Park Middle School and New Tech.

Eligibility Guidelines

In order to be eligible to participate in Zion Township's SWP, **you must:**

- Be a Zion Township resident.
- Be 14 or 15 years old on or before the start date of the program.
- Be able to obtain a valid work permit.

How do I obtain a Work Permit?

Once you are hired, you must obtain a work permit and return it to Zion Township before the SWP Orientation. To apply for a work permit, **you will need:**

- Your social security card and birth certificate. The names on each must match exactly.
- Your hire letter that is mailed to you from Zion Township.
- A physical performed within the last 12 months and you must bring documented proof of the physical.
- Work permits can be obtained at your school.

How much will I make?

The Zion Township Summer Work Program is an educational work program for youth to prepare them for the workplace. This training is for about 40 days during the summer. Because of this, **wages are set as follows:**

- Illinois State Law mandates a subminimum learners rate set at 70% of the state's current minimum wage.
- Pursuant to state law, all Summer Work Program employees paid by Zion Township will earn \$5.80 per hour.

Agency Placements

Zion Township is always looking for additional places in the community that are willing to take a few of our youth under their wing. **What are the benefits of providing placements for our Summer Work Program employees?**

- Inexpensive labor! Our youth are paid \$5.80 per hour, and we pay over half of that cost for all of our agency placements. So, that means agencies will be charged a flat rate of \$2.90 per hour for youth workers. Agencies are billed once at the end of the program.
- The experience with your agency provides the youth with valuable work experience, which often leads to them obtaining future positions in the same field and in some cases the same organization.
- Youth can perform any tasks required of the position they are given, but, it is prohibited by law for anyone under the age of 16 to use power equipment.

