

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services division of the Cortland Youth Bureau promotes positive youth development by providing recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities for teens and pre-teens. Staff members also offer informal counseling and referrals to other service agencies in the community. Overall, the multi-faceted program encourages kids to engage in productive behaviors, establish healthy beliefs, and maintain clear standards for themselves and their peers. This holistic approach to youth development helps our young people build the assets they need to carry them into adulthood.

A Special Thank you to the New York State Office of Children & Family Services for helping sponsor the Youth Services Division.

CORTLAND YOUTH BUREAU YOUTH CENTER

Located in downtown Cortland at 35 Port Watson Street, the Youth Center offers a huge variety of programs and events for young people: Field trips, game tournaments, tutoring, guest speakers, music lessons, artwork, craft projects, cooking classes, free dinners, job-search assistance, volunteer opportunities, and more. The facility itself is equipped with pool, ping-pong, and foosball tables; a full kitchen; a music room with guitars, amps, and a full drum-kit; a sound stage and DJ booth; and closets full of board games and craft supplies. There are always responsible, caring staff members on the premises to play games with you, help with your homework, or connect you with other service agencies if you need them. For more information, give the Center staff a call at 753-3580.

YOUTH CENTER OPPORTUNITIES

Our staff work hard to ensure that we offer something for everyone at the Youth Center. Many of the ideas for our programs come from teens and their parents. If you have an idea of a program or event that you would like to see offered in Cortland please share it with us. We strive to offer relevant and exciting programming for all youth in our community.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

The Center welcomes 11-12 year olds or those in 5th and 6th grades to attend from 3-6pm on weeknights. Those 13-18 or in 7th-12th grades are welcome to attend the Center during all open hours.

YOUTH CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday 3:00-8:00pm

Friday 3:00-9:00pm

(Closed for field trips, see page 15)

Saturday:

1st and 3rd of the month 7:00-10:00pm

All other Saturdays 1:00-5:00pm

CORTLAND GIRLS GROUP

Open to girls 11-18 the Cortland Girls Group is focused on giving young girls within our community the tools to better their lives. This peer to peer mentoring approach is based on an international Girl Talk curriculum. We believe every teen has something to teach others while also learning more about who she is. The group meets at the Youth Center on Thursdays at 5:30. Snacks and activities will be provided. Thank you to Cortland Area Communities that Care for awarding Girls Group a mini-grant, your donation means so much to us!



CORTLAND PROM CLOSET

It's that magical time of year... prom season is just around the corner. Thankfully community members have donated hundreds of beautiful dresses. The Youth Center is proud to announce that we are continuing our immensely successful prom dress collection and donation effort. Dresses and accessories are available for students with a valid high school ID. Dress Giveaways will be held this spring. Community members interested in donating formal wear or accessories can drop items off during regular business hours at the CYB main office or the CYB Youth Center. We thank local community members, Cortland Dry Cleaning and Shaw and Boehler Florist for their generous donations to this program. To donate to the program or to setup an appointment to select a dress for an upcoming semi-formal or formal event contact 753-3021.