

Digital Toolkit

Staff Newsletter



INDY
SUMMER
YOUTH
PROGRAMS

Below is sample content for publishing in your staff newsletter or email to encourage school administrators and staff to promote Indy Summer Youth Programs. Feel free to copy and paste the content below into your staff communications.

Headline

Help every child make the most of their summer.

Body Copy

When summer arrives, children benefit from having opportunities for learning and enrichment. Over the summer, many young people and their families lose access to critical supports that keep them safe, healthy, and engaged in learning and meaningful experiences.

Summer can also be a time to engage in high-quality summer programs that produce measurable benefits in math, reading, and social and emotional learning.

Indy Summer Youth Programs (ISYP) give Marion County youth summer fun and enrichment. Families can choose the best fit from nearly 200 programs, including sports, arts and culture, youth employment, nutrition, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). These summer programs provide a fresh perspective on life as youth meet new friends and discover new skills, passions, and hobbies. Youth spend time in structured environments and create positive interactions with peers and adults. Indy Summer Youth Programs provide a safe place to study, read, learn, connect with friends, play sports, and engage in emotional and educational enrichment. Many programs offer free or low-cost enrollment options, and some scholarships are available. Indy Summer Youth Programs are available for youth ages 4-22, with full- and half-day program options. Many programs also provide healthy meals and snacks.

Many students and families are unaware these summer learning options exist, or wait too long to sign up, causing them to miss out on scholarship opportunities.

Throughout the pandemic, summer programs have pivoted their services to meet the needs of Marion County youth and families. They are adapting and innovating to ensure children and their families can access safe, high-quality summer learning opportunities with enriching academics, social-emotional support, caring mentors and trained educators, healthy meals, physical activities, and opportunities to explore careers and gain workforce skills.

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You can help your students and families learn more about the programs available to them by:

- ▶ Planting the seed and encouraging parents to sign up early to take advantage of scholarships
- ▶ Leveraging what you know about students' interests and suggesting activities and programs that might be a good fit
- ▶ Helping families with the application process and informing them about the possibility of a sliding scale on prices
- ▶ Putting up visual images of summer opportunities in classrooms and hallways
- ▶ Asking families to talk with each other about opportunities, particularly those who have already experienced the summer planning process or camps they liked. This can help reduce fears and apprehension about safety, and even encourage families to send students or siblings in pairs or groups to camps and activities.
- ▶ Asking students to speak with their peers to spread the word and mentality of, "if I can do this, you can do this too." For example, have students present on what they did last summer at a summer fair, school assembly, or during a class.

Learn more at indysummerprograms.org, and help get the word out to students and families.



Questions about the digital toolkit? Contact Us.

Marion County Commission on Youth
(317) 921-1266 or info@mccoyouth.org