

## MSYEP FAQ

### **What is the Mayor's Program?**

The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, more commonly known as Mayor's Program or MSYEP is a six-week summer jobs program for Cambridge residents ages 14-18. We are designed to be a supported first or early work experience.

### **Where do teens work?**

MSYEP has more than 115 partner organizations, all either non-profits or government agencies. The vast majority of our worksites are in Cambridge, with a handful at nearby T accessible locations in Somerville, Arlington, and Boston.

### **How are teens assigned to their jobs?**

We read every single application, and look at the requests the teen has made for what types of work they want to do...and what types of work they don't want to do. We also keep in mind their age, where they live, what hours they're available, and the skills and hobbies they've listed on their application, and make a decision that works as well as possible with all those different factors. Each year we rotate through the alphabet...sometimes starting at A, sometimes starting at Z, and sometimes starting in the middle, so nobody gets lucky every summer and gets placed early.

### **How much money do teens make?**

Teens working in MSYEP make \$8 an hour and work 20 hours each week. A teen who works all of their possible hours will earn \$960 during the summer. Teens can earn extra money by participating in college tours and financial literacy workshops, allowing teens to cross the \$1000 mark for summer earnings.

### **How will we know if we got a job?**

Letters will be mailed during the second week of June to all on-time applicants, letting them know if they've been hired, or were placed on our waiting list. Be sure the teen's address is printed clearly, including any apartment number, on the application. Also be sure the teen's name is on the mailbox, otherwise the mail might get returned.

### **I heard older teens can't get into the program. Is that true?**

No, but priority does go to 14 and 15 year olds. In years when we are over-subscribed and can't find a placement for every on-time applicant, we do place older teens in a lottery. However, even in years when we have held a lottery, a significant majority of older teens still get jobs.

### **I'm turning 14 in August. Can I still apply?**

Sadly, no. Youth must be 14, and no older than 18, as of our start date (this year that's July 5<sup>th</sup>) in order to be eligible. This is due to Massachusetts Child Labor Laws.

**My mom won't let me take my documents out of the house. Are these photocopies ok instead?**

Unfortunately, no. We need to verify for the federal government that we have seen original documents, and we sign under penalty of perjury stating that we have. So we must see originals of all documents. We will not keep an original, and ask you to ALSO bring a copy in case there are questions about your documents later. Bringing a copy helps the line move more quickly for everyone! If your mom still won't give you the documents, she's welcome to come with you, and we've got extended hours until 7pm on Monday nights at our 51 Inman Street location which might make that easier for her.

**I really like this specific place. Can I work there?**

Maybe. If you request a specific worksite, we'll place you there if there are still available slots when we get to your name during the placement process. To increase your chances, feel free to contact the site in advance and see if they can also request you on their end.

**When do we find out where we work?**

MSYEP Orientation will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>. That's where everyone finds out their work assignments.

**I'm going to Farawayia for two weeks. Can I still do Mayor's Program?**

If those two weeks are both during our program weeks (July 5<sup>th</sup>-August 12<sup>th</sup>), then no. It's awesome that you get to travel, but unfortunately you can't miss more than six work days and still be eligible. Feel free to apply in case your travel plans fall through...but we'll be in touch to find out if you're still going away, and if you are, you'll just have to pass on MSYEP this year.

**When will I get paid?**

Teens in MSYEP get paid every Friday starting during week 2 of the program, until the week after they stop working.

**I heard you have to go through workshops. What's that about?**

Each week, starting during week 2, teens attend a workshop delivered by MSYEP staff. These cover youth development topics including accountability, communication, networking, job search, and reflection. These are a required part of the program, and are included in teens' 20 hours for the week.