



News Release

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Volunteers needed to support summer program for Aurora teens *Three-week pilot project will provide real-world experience for at-risk youth*

Aurora, Colo. --- Arapahoe County is seeking adult volunteers to assist with *Aurora Youth 4 Success*, a summer pilot project that will help at-risk teens develop job and life skills to prepare for a positive and productive adulthood.

Volunteers are needed 1 to 3 p.m. weekdays from July 6 to July 24 at Overland High School (12400 E. Jewell Ave. Aurora). Community members with a passion for helping youth and/or a knowledge of culinary arts, information technology, architecture, engineering, automotive technology, business or marketing are encouraged to volunteer.

Volunteers will assist a class instructor in identifying and delivering a unique course curriculum. The three-week summer program will be open to 60 students, grades 8 -11, who may enroll in one of five course offerings:

- *Culinary Arts* will teach how to plan, shop for and prepare healthy meals;
- *Kidstek* will teach how to use computer software to explore careers and search for jobs;
- *Earth Force* will teach how to develop a community action plan and design a youth center for Aurora;
- *Aurora Apprentice* will teach planning, marketing, budgeting and life skills in a challenge; and
- *Automotive Technology* students will learn how vehicles work, along with basic important automotive maintenance.

Each student also will take the *Alive @ 25* safe driving class.

"*Aurora Youth 4 Success* is an entirely volunteer-run program that will empower local teens with workforce ready skills and a passion for learning, while offering them a positive diversion during the hot summer days," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan.

Cooking enthusiasts and chefs are strongly needed to serve as class leaders for the culinary arts course, which will deliver CSU-Extension-Arapahoe County's 4-H Nutrition, Health and Food Safety curriculum and Tri-County Health Department's nutrition education program.

Aurora Youth 4 Success was collaboratively developed by multiple stakeholders, including Arapahoe County, Colorado State Representatives Nancy Todd and Su Ryden, City of Aurora, Aurora Public Schools, Aurora Parks and Recreation District, the 18th Judicial District, National Eyes on Youth and other organizations. Funding sources for the pilot project vary. Students will pay only \$25 to participate.

The long-term mission for the program is to create a center for Aurora youth that will help them to navigate adolescence without dropping out of high school involvement or committing a crime. Such a center would encompass healthy and beneficial resources needed to recreate, study, network, socialize, access computers, develop job skills, find health resources and receive assistance with judicial matters.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser at 303-738-7938 to apply or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us. All applicants must agree to a background check.

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