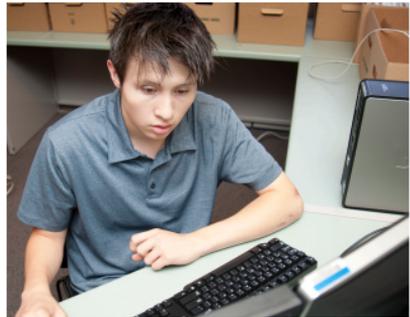




Youth Employment Solutions

Providing experience
and opportunity for
Washington's blind and
visually impaired youth.

The Youth Employment Solutions (YES) programs are multi-week summer camps focused on career preparation, sponsored by the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) and the Washington State School for the Blind.



Why Youth Employment Solutions?

Statistics indicate that more than 70% of blind adults are either unemployed or under-employed, in jobs unequal to their education. However, evidence also indicates that blind individuals who have work experience prior to entering the labor market are more likely to be successful at defining, achieving, and maintaining their vocational goals.

Internships are an ideal way for students to gain work experience, as well as develop interpersonal, communication, and teamwork skills valued in the workplace.

YES 1

YES 1 is a two-week program for 14-15 year-old students, hosted in Vancouver, Washington.

YES 1 offers students - who need minimal assistance with their independent living and travel skills - the opportunity to explore their interests and aptitudes through different assessments; explore different careers; and visit work sites.



Students practice the skills needed for career success, including building resumes, creating career portfolios, filling out applications, and participating in mock interviews.

Second year YES 1 students also take part in three to five job shadowing experiences to learn more about the daily activities of their possible career choices.

YES 2

YES 2 is a six-week program in Seattle, Washington, designed to provide valuable work experience and learning to high school students, age 16 through graduation.

Accepted candidates are provided five weeks of paid work experience at internships created for them in cooperation with Seattle-area businesses. Positions are assigned to students based on their interests, abilities, and experience.

YES 2 students commute to their jobs independently. However, all students are “shadowed” to and from work sites by YES staff, until they have been cleared for independent travel by a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist.





In addition to the internships, participants spend their off-work hours experiencing residential living on the University of Washington campus. While a resident, students learn and practice their Alternative Skills of Daily Living to:

- Plan meals, make grocery lists, purchase supplies, and prepare meals;
- Maintain clothing and personal effects and keep rooms clean;
- Share the cleaning of common living spaces at the YES residence; and
- Learn and practice personal finance and budgeting skills.

Students requiring extra instruction and / or assistance receive support from qualified YES staff members.

Eligibility

To participate in YES, students must:

- Be legally blind or visually impaired.
- Be able to independently meet their medical and personal needs.
- Possess Orientation and Mobility skills allowing safe and independent travel in familiar and unfamiliar indoor and outdoor environments.
- **YES 2 participants** must be active clients of DSB's Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Acceptance is based on:

- YES application,
- Input from the student's TVI, and
- Skills assessment with YES staff.

It's Not All Work...

Social and recreational experiences are an important part of YES. Students are visited by guest speakers; complete community service projects; work on creative and arts projects; and enjoy other recreational activities and field trips.



These Employers said **YES!**

by providing internship
opportunities to our students

- Alexis Hotel
- Alpine Hut
- Animal Critical Care and
Emergency Services
- Café NOAA
- Client Assistance Program
- Dennis's Snacks
- Li'l Anchor Child Care
- Pacific Science Center
- Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind
- Seattle Public Library
- Starbucks
- The Barking Lounge
- Third Ave. Café
- University Botanical Gardens –
Washington Park Arboretum
- University of
Washington
Greenhouse
- Value Village
- Washington
Talking Book
and Braille
Library
- Zeke's Pizza



Contact Info

For more information on the Youth Employment Services Summer programs, or to request an application, please visit www.dsb.wa.gov or contact the YES program staff below:

YES 1

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YES 2

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