



SPOTLIGHT

Safety in the Youth LIVE Environment

Safety should always be at the forefront of everyone's mind, whether they are working inside or outside, in a labour intensive environment or in an office setting. At Youth LIVE, we take safety seriously and are proactive in creating a safe work environment for our customers, participants and staff.

We believe education and awareness are the cornerstones of work place safety. Each participant is given a safety orientation on their first day, to ensure they are aware of their rights and responsibilities relative to workplace safety. Participants also attend a mandatory safety module within ten days of starting the program. The safety module builds on the safety orientation, discussing in more detail the importance of everyone being accountable and playing their part in maintaining a safe working environment.

On a day-to-day basis, our Team Leaders are responsible for putting what we preach into practice. Youth LIVE participants are exposed to a variety of tools and equipment. Many have no previous work experience. Our Team Leaders are up to the challenge by providing clear instruction, demonstrating proper use and maintenance techniques for each piece of equipment and closely supervising participants while they work.

We believe the investment we make in safety training and reinforcement of safe work practices is time well spent.

WHAT'S NEW

Youth LIVE website

- we're pleased to announce that we have a new web site.

Check us out at:
www.halifax.ca/police/YouthLIVE



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

If you were to tell someone about Youth LIVE what would you say?

Sign up. Really put an effort in. If you do, you will be on the path to success. *Thomas P.* (December 2008)

WOW! It is a stepping stone to the real world. If you are looking for a transition point, this is it. It's very easy going but instills real world work and life expectations, while being open to doing other things. *Roland R.* (January 2009)

What did you like about Youth LIVE?

I liked the experience and being put in a leadership role. It felt good to be the person people relied on for help. *Thomas G.* (December 2008)

The different people from different backgrounds and cultures. *Tysha B.* (January 2009)

What did staff do well?

They really taught me well the first time, so I would get it by the second try. They always put safety first. *Thomas G.* (December 2008)

They did well in teaching in a manner that was comfortable. And they worked well with the participants. They were less of an authority figure and more like part of the team. *Liam D.* (January 2009)

Did Youth LIVE meet your expectations?

They were exceeded. Not only did I gain confidence and leadership abilities, I learned team commitment, and met lifetime friends and contacts. Additionally, I learned that if you are willing to put in the time and effort, good things will come. *Thomas P.* (December 2008)



PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

During 2008 Youth LIVE participants and staff:

- **diverted 199,320 kg of paper and card board** from the landfill.
- **sorted and diverted 5,385,650 refundable beverage containers** from the landfill. 3,943,260 beverage containers were brought to our Enviro Depot for refund. 1,442,390 containers were salvaged from garbage processed at the Otter Lake disposal facility.
- **completed 3,753 organic green cart service requests.**
- **completed 285 by-law remedies.**

In 2008, **55 youth joined our program:**

- 21 have reported successful outcomes - completing the program and finding employment or returning to school/training.
- 13 remain in the program with anticipated completion dates from now to mid-July 2009.
- 21 have not reported successful outcomes to date.

HOLIDAY CHEER

Youth LIVE Holiday Party

It has become a tradition at Youth LIVE for staff to cook a holiday breakfast for participants. Delmar Mestdagh, our Enviro Depot Operations Coordinator, organized the event like a military manoeuvre - choosing the menu, assigning staff to each cooking station, and organizing who was



Youth LIVE participants enjoying the holiday party.

responsible for bringing utensils and appliances. This was no easy task when you consider that our Depot doesn't have a kitchen!

While the participants were enjoying their breakfast of scrambled eggs, waffles, bacon, sausage and fresh fruit, we had a visit from Santa (who bore a striking resemblance to Team Leader Shawn Marriot). Instead of a sack of goodies, Santa brought a recycling barrel, "dressed up" for the holidays and filled with shredded paper and presents. Each participant took a turn pulling out a mystery present. Santa also had a few small presents for the staff in keeping with their likes - a bottle of Coke for Team Leader Richard Darr, a cup of Tim Hortons' coffee for Manager Kelly Hunt and some mint chocolate patties for Program Generalist Courtney Matheson, to name a few.

Everyone enjoyed the morning and had a picture taken with Santa as a commemoration of the day.



A Youth LIVE participant with Santa.

The Grand Christmas Recognition Contest

Youth LIVE Participants did their best to get caught doing something good in the six weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday. At the end of the six-week period, over 165 "Great Job!" cards had been given out for their efforts. The participant who received the highest number of recognition cards was rewarded with a gift card to the store of their choice. Thomas G. was the overall winner and chose a gift card for EB Games. The second and third place winners, Shawn L. and Liam D., each won a gift card for Empire Theatres. Congratulations to our winners and everyone who received "Great Job!" cards during the contest.

Youth LIVE

490-5589 or ylrecruit@halifax.ca

www.halifax.ca/police/YouthLIVE

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