

“PUTTING YOUTH FIRST IN BIRMINGHAM”

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Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services “Putting Youth First” during Pandemic

The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services (DYS) is continuing to “Put Youth First” in the City of Birmingham. DYS has shifted many of its direct serve programming to virtual programs. DYS new mission is to “*connect youth to opportunities through innovative, partnerships, programs and services to achieve success.*”

DYS provides these services using a *Five Prong Approach*:

Prong I: DYS Disseminates Youth-Related Information.

Prong II: DYS Advocates for Youth Inclusion & Participation.

Prong III: DYS Maintains a Network of Collaborative Partnerships.

Prong IV: DYS Provides Youth Development Programs

Prong V: DYS Assists With Monitoring City-Funded Youth Initiatives as needed.

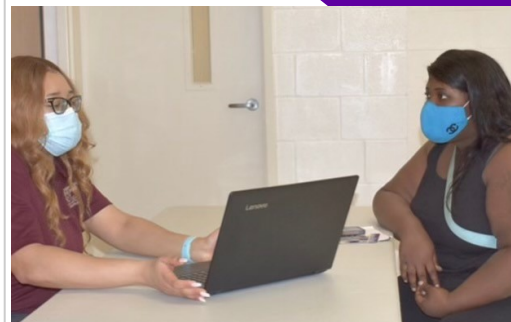
Recently DYS staff were happy to serve as mock interviewers and resume builders for a Career Fair and Job Readiness Workshop hosted by the City of Birmingham.

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, several professionals from various city departments helped young adults get career ready at the Fountain Heights Recreation Center. The free event gave attendees an opportunity to receive free interviews, clothing, and resume-building tips to help grow their career skills. This event served young people ages 15-25 years old.



DYS Project Manager Miaya Webster helps interview students at Career Fair on March 24, 2021

In addition to our mission and *Five Prong* approach, DYS is also working towards our *Woodfin Way* strategic goal, to promote High-Performing 21st Century Education & Workforce Development Systems in the City of Birmingham.



DYS Project Manager, Cailen Raines helps a student improve her resumes at the Career Fair on March 24, 2021

This goal encompasses the following steps:

1. Partner with BCS and other partners to establish early childhood learning centers.
2. Align existing Kids and Jobs programs with partners, industry leaders and workforce pipeline goals.
3. Expand capacity and enhance quality of current workforce development programs to help the city retain young talent.
4. Partner with the Board of Education so that every student can graduate with a diploma and an Alabama Career Readiness Certificate.

For more information about DYS' programs and services visit:
www.bhamyouthfirst.org

Carver Girls Basketball Team

The Carver High School girls basketball team is still reeling after a historic championship win in the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) 5A State Championship game. The Lady Rams are truly a good example of what happens when you work hard and never give up.

In 2019, they made it to the AHSAA Final Four. Then in 2020, they made it to the state regional finals. But on March 4, 2021 at Bill Harris Arena, they made school history by not only playing in their first 5A state championship game but also bringing home the school's first girls' state basketball championship. They beat Huntsville's Mae Jemison High School, 78-69, to claim the victory. "We are glad they had the opportunity to experience a state championship," said Coach Jarvis Wilson. "Their legacy will be cemented here forever."

The team consists of just seven members, Tamia Muse, Destinee Nelson, Randrea Wright, Ciondra Darden, Cameryn Dorsey, Precious Sturdivant and Kamaya Wilson. Wright was named tournament MVP and became the school's first female player to sign a Division 1 scholarship in girls' basketball, Wilson said. She's going to the University of Central Arkansas on a full scholarship. She says she used to get made fun of for playing basketball and was even called a "tomboy." Her advice to other young ladies, "do what makes you happy and don't worry about what [anybody] else has to say, as long as you are doing what makes you happy it's going to take you a long

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way." That positive attitude has definitely taken her and her teammates a very long way.

Coach Wilson says these ladies have sacrificed a lot and really held each other accountable, "they represent the strength of a woman. They are strong, mentally and physically. They were able to take on tasks in front of them and win."

Congrats again to the Carver High School Lady Rams!



Carver High School Girls Basketball Team after winning 5A state championship (AHSAA)

Birmingham Public Library Pushes "License to Read" Summer Reading Program

Birmingham Public Library's "License To Read" Program illustrates the advantages of a library card for students. This program is usually done in classrooms, however this year BPL has created a virtual option. To find out what resources are available, students can view this short video [HERE](#), as it outlines what they can access with a library card.

Although this program is usually presented early in the school year, this will be a perfect resource for students to get a jump on their summer reading! The card also gives them access to different types of entertainment, such as movies, tv shows, and music.

For more information on Birmingham Public Library's "License To Read" Program, visit their website [HERE](#).

Firefighters Recruiting Now!

A recruitment poster for the Birmingham Fire & Rescue Service Department. The poster has a yellow background with a black border. At the top, it says "Birmingham FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DEPARTMENT". Below that, in large white letters on a black background, it says "WE ARE HIRING". To the right of this, in a red banner, it says "JOIN OUR TEAM". Below the banner, there is a white megaphone icon. To the right of the megaphone, it says "2021 JOB VACANCY" and "DEADLINE TO APPLY APRIL 25TH SUNDAY". Below this, there are three bullet points: "- MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE BY 09/21/2021", "- MUST HAVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY 06/01/2021", and "- NO FELONY CONVICTIONS". At the bottom, it says "START YOUR CAREER WITH BFRS TODAY!" followed by "20 YEAR RETIREMENT | MEDICAL & DENTAL BENEFITS | PAID HOLIDAYS | PAID VACATION & SICK LEAVE | COMPETITIVE PAY". At the very bottom, it says "for more information please contact 205-279-3500 TO APPLY: www.JOBSQUEST.org". There is a small logo for "PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST" on the bottom left and a small image of a fire truck on the bottom right.

Raising Awareness or Autism Month

Every April **Autism Speaks** celebrates World **Autism Month**, beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World **Autism Awareness** Day on April 2. Throughout the **month**, groups focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and **acceptance** of people with **autism**, fostering worldwide support.

The UN has declared this year, the **theme** is 'Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World'.

According to the United Nations, the "[COVID-19 pandemic](#)" has exposed and heightened glaring inequalities around the world, especially when it comes to income and wealth distribution,

access to health care, protection under the law, and political inclusion. Persons with autism have long faced many of these inequalities, which have only been further exacerbated by the pandemic".

But there are resources available, visit www.autismspeaks.org to learn more on how you can make an impact in your local community to support children and young adults with autism.



Deadline Extended to Apply for Sloss Metal Arts Summer Youth Apprenticeship

The Sloss Metal Arts Summer Youth Apprenticeship was founded on the importance of passing on the history of Sloss Furnaces and the many techniques and traditions of metal art in face to face learning and observation.

This eight-week program employs 14 students, ages 16-18, to work and study under professional artists for 30 hours a week, at a minimum wage. The program is designed to expose students to a variety of processes and techniques in a hands-on, individualized environment. Students may apply for the program by **April 23, 2021** to be considered for acceptance.

The teachers in the apprenticeship program are all professional artists working in cast iron and/or fabricated steel. These instructors integrate ideas about form, design, and materials into a series of projects that teach the apprentices the processes used to cast, weld, and forge metal art. The casting

processes include; pattern-making, mold-making, casting, and finishing. Students are also introduced to welding and forging and may choose one of those areas for concentration. Students will end the summer with a final project and exhibition of their work, made during the program.

To learn more about the apprenticeship or to apply, visit Sloss Metal Arts' website [HERE](#).

SLOSS METAL ARTS NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS Alabama State Council on the Arts

Apprenticeship Application Process

Application Deadline: **April 16th**

Apprenticeship Dates: **June 7th - July 30th, 2021**

How to Apply
Note: Students must be 16 by the start of the program.

- ➔ Submit an application package, which includes the completed application form, one references from a teacher or mentor about your art background or achievement, and photos, photocopies, digital images or samples of your artwork.
- ➔ Attend a mandatory introductory casting workshop. The workshop gives you an opportunity to experience the casting process and gives us an chance to see your work ethic, ability to follow directions, and capacity to work with others. Since few students enter the program knowing extensively about casting sculpture, the workshop includes hands-on activities that give us a view of your ability to work in three dimensions. Casting workshop date TBD
- ➔ Interview. Applicant interviews are scheduled for the following week to learn more about individual interests, reasons for applying to the program, and to assess the strengths and weakness of each applicant. Date TBA
- ➔ Selection Criteria. Selection into the program is a based on evaluation of the application materials (especially the portfolio), work performance during the workshop, and interviews. Students are notified of selection in May.

A Sloss representative can visit your school to talk with interested students about the apprenticeship program.

Contact Ashley Wingo-Ashley@Slossfurnaces.com or 205-913-4129



FOR KIDS



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MAYOR RANDALL L. WOODFIN

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