



RISE TOGETHER - MAY 30, 2023

SPOTLIGHT ON VOICE

Congratulations to the VOICE team in Youth Development for having their work recognized with a National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Innovation Award!

Winning the NRPA Innovation Award highlights the great work done by the VOICE team, which is composed of manager Thaddeus “Thad” Alexander, Jasmine Mekelburg and Charla Woods-Favors! Every day, they deal with heavy topics and work with individuals who are in crisis. This work is difficult, and it’s great to be reminded of the difference they make in the lives of the individuals they work with, and within the community.

This recognition is also great for the department. Hundreds of recreation and parks agencies from across the country enter the awards, and NRPA shared that the competition was particularly tough this year. Winning this honor puts our work on the national stage and reinforces we are building a culture of excellence.

Learn more about the VOICE team in the Section Spotlight below.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

WE’RE HIRING!

Know someone who likes working with teens to help them prepare for their future careers? The APPS team is looking for year-round job readiness coaches. Job readiness coaches:

- Build rapport and establish trusting relationships with

6/5/2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

English

- Provide guidance and support in developing career goals and aspirations
- Monitor and track progress, and maintain regular communication with participants
- Support youth in developing problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Offer ongoing mentoring and coaching to ensure continued growth and success

[View the full job description](#) – please share with anyone who would be a good fit!

Not a good fit? There are other openings across the department – [check out all open positions](#).

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH CITYWIDE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Check out the lineup of courses offered by Citywide Training and Development. You can choose from a variety of courses that will help you get more organized, enhance your leadership skills, learn more about diversity, equity and inclusion and get ready for your next career move.

[View the June 2023 schedule](#). [Log in to the Training Gateway to register](#).

FOCUS ON YOUR WELL-BEING WITH WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Do you read the weekly emails from Employee Benefits and Wellness? Each Wednesday, the team shares wellness tips related to mental and physical health.

Wellness Wednesdays are brought to you by Healthy Columbus, the City’s [Employee Wellness Program](#). Watch for the next issue of Wellness Wednesdays in your email inbox tomorrow!

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

April 25

All day

YOUTH SOCCER 23/24 LEAGUE REGISTRATION

All day

COLUMBUS AQUATICS CENTER SUMMER SESSION – START

All day

OUTDOOR SWIM LESSONS SESSION A – START

All day

WATER IS LIFE EXHIBITION

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

How do you like to keep cool in the summer?

kfrancisapr@gmail.com [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

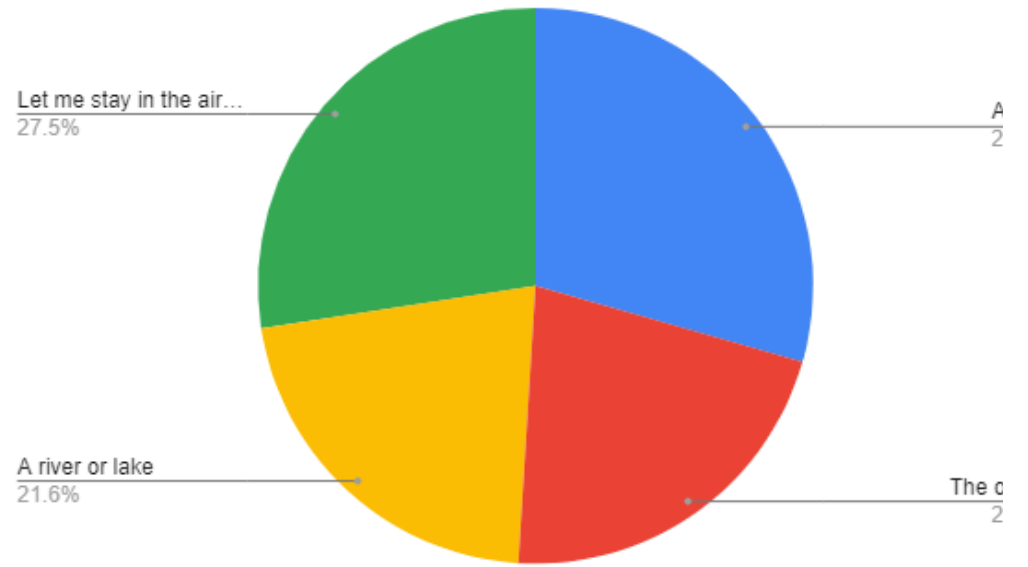
How do you like to keep cool in the summer? *

- A pool
- A river or lake
- The ocean
- A fountain or splashpad
- A sprinkler in the yard
- Let me stay in the air conditioning!

Submit

Clear for

Count of How do you like to keep cool in the summer?



LEADERSHIP UPDATE

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

VOICE



- **What's new in the last 18 months?** The VOICE program has been making steady strides toward expanding its work in the community. One of its major goals was to establish direct and streamlined access to community resources for all participants, which is now possible thanks to a multitude of community-based stakeholders and agencies. VOICE has successfully extended its services to OSU East Hospital for the summer/fall season and is currently in talks with other major hospitals for further expansion. This development will help VOICE better connect and support participants in obtaining their needs in a quicker and more efficient process.
- **What is the section's core function?** The VOICE Program is a hospital-based intervention program. VOICE works with individuals who have been victimized from a gunshot wound, stabbing and/or assault and provides intensive case management services for participants who reside in the City of Columbus and were referred by Grant Hospital.
- **What benefits do you provide to staff or residents?** VOICE serves as a valuable connector for both staff and residents. The VOICE team has been utilized by the department for the resources it gathers while working in the community. By sharing the resources and opportunities provided by companies and agencies, VOICE can better assist members of the community.
- **How do staff or residents interact with your section?** The VOICE program operates as a referral-based system for case management services. In addition to assisting participants who have been victims of recent crime, we also strive to provide assistance to the entire household that was impacted by the traumatic experience of violence. The VOICE program also provides a three-month participant survey as well as a discharge survey. The feedback from participants has remained positive.
- **What are some fun facts about the section?** The VOICE Program also provides support to the community by participating in events that showcase solidarity with our partners and those in need. We like to celebrate our participants' achievements along the road to self-sufficiency, and have organized various events and experiences to that end, such as taking participants and their families to the zoo for a mental health wellness day and utilizing our community centers for wellness experiences with participants, such as the Cap City Experiences. Additionally, we are proud to share that there has been zero re-victimization among VOICE participants at this time.
- **Do you have any additional information to share with the department?** The VOICE Program is now a member of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI), which is recognized as one of the most credential spaces for intervention. Additionally, VOICE partners with national organization Crime Survivors for Safety & Justice (CSSJ) to advocate and provide support to individuals who have been victims of crimes.

Nominate A Coworker for the Staff Spotlight

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) They will be notified that they were nominated in order to answer spotlight questions.