

Youth Culture Lesson
Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
From *YouthWorker Journal* and YouthWorker.com

No Job? No Prob.

Creative Youth Make Summer Work for Them

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Posted: June 28, 2010

What Happened:

Times are tough, and jobs—particularly for teens—are hard to come by. While the unemployment rate for all Americans hovers at around 9.7 percent, more than 26 percent of teens ages 16 to 19 are without work—and those are just the ones actively looking for jobs.

Just because employers aren't hiring doesn't mean there isn't money to be made or experience to be gained. Creativity and perseverance—traits that are valuable in any job—are quite helpful in creating your own work, too.

Take Courtney Paaverud, a Minnesota teen who wanted to use her singing voice to make a little money. After talking with some musical entrepreneurs for advice—singers and choral directors—she started volunteering to sing at churches, and the resulting exposure helped Courtney land some paid singing gigs at weddings and parties. She's making \$50 to \$100 per performance.

Source: "Good Morning America"

Judge Swann, a Georgia Boy Scout who filled a need many of his dog-owning neighbors were begging for: poop removal. For his business, "Scout with a Scoop," Judge promises to come by weekly and clean up his customer's backyard. At \$10 per visit, the cash can really pile up.

Source: "Good Morning America"

There are loads of opportunities for summer entrepreneurship: Some teens mow lawns. Others bake and sell brownies. Experts say it's a good idea to research first; but in truth, opportunities are limited only by your own creativity, determination and talent.

Even if creating your own job isn't your cup of tea, there are still plenty of ways to get good experience and keep yourself busy. Organizations always are looking for volunteers. Chipping in for charity looks great on a resume or college application; and it can make a big, tangible difference in the world around you.

Talk About It:

How are you spending your summer? Did you find a job? Would you like to?

Can you think of ways that can use your talents and interests to provide a service to others? Do you think you can make money at it? If you could design a perfect job, what would it be?

Are there charities or ministries you'd like to help this summer? Does your community have needs that you'd like to help meet? Is there a certain issue (i.e., homelessness, the environment or group of people—kids, senior citizens, single moms) you'd most like to help?

What the Bible Says:

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. . . . We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so we would not be a burden to any of you” (2 Thess. 3:6-8).

“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty” (Prov. 14:23).

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” (Eccl. 9:10).

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands” (Ps. 90:17).