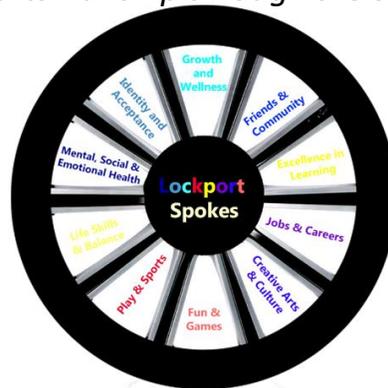




1 Grigg Lewis Way ▪ Lockport ▪ www.CornerstoneIceArena.com

Lockport Ice Arena & Sports Center, Inc.

Mission: To combat juvenile delinquency and community deterioration, promote social welfare and physical fitness, lessen the burdens of government and promote the development of good sportsmanship through the conduct of supervised athletic activities.



Lockport Spokes

“an afterschool collaborative focused on providing a safe space and impactful programming for junior and high school students in the greater Lockport area.”

Respectfully submitted: July 22, 2021

What is Lockport Spokes?

Cornerstone Arena is quickly becoming the unofficial community center within the city of Lockport and welcomes everyone. We realize that it is time the adults in our local community listen to the wants and needs of our future generation and support them accordingly. Based upon an initiative from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Gen-Zers "spoke" to what they envisioned for afterschool programming. A collaboration of more than a dozen Eastern Niagara County agencies and providers have listened and formed "Lockport Spokes".

Centralized at Cornerstone CFCU Arena, the downtown "hub", then branching out like the "spokes" of a wheel, Lockport Spokes will offer a variety of afterschool activities to our teens (in grades 7-12), Monday-Friday from 3:00pm – 6:00 pm, during the school year. Majority of the programs will be at the hub, with spokes locations at The Salvation Army, The Historic Palace Theatre and the Challenger Learning Center, all within walking distance from the hub.

This collaborative includes programming and/or partnerships provided by: Lockport Ice Arena & Sports Center, Inc., Niagara Aquatics Swim Club, Youth Mentoring Services, Cornell Cooperative Extension, The Salvation Army, Challenger Learning Center, The Historic Palace Theatre, Girl Scouts of Western New York, Casual Dragon Games, Pulp 716, Niagara County Workforce Development and the Lockport City School District. It is no small task to coordinate this many providers towards the same common goal, but each has expressed great enthusiasm in being part of this unique and necessary opportunity.

Lockport Spokes partners understand that programming must meet the needs of the youth in attendance to have the most impact and establish a strong foundation for our future generations. These programs will be flexible and in relation to what the participants want to do. No one will be pressured to do anything, only encouraged to give it a try. There is plenty of room for self-expression and personal growth within the various programs available.

This collaborative has put a great deal of thought into the Lockport Spokes concept and cannot wait to work with our teens to get it right. That is why we are requesting that this grant, if awarded, be funded in draws. LIASC will evaluate participation in each agency's programming and make changes to best utilize grant dollars to meet the needs of the students.



What programs are available through Lockport Spokes?

At the hub, two staffers provided by Niagara County Workforce Development will assist in program oversight and offer guidance and mentorship, but not “babysit” teen participants. They will also provide daily drinks and snacks to all in attendance.

LIASC has conferred with Holly Dickinson of Lockport City School District. She is very welcoming of this opportunity and agrees the need runs deep in the community. She is working with Deb Coder to get approval for a bus drop off at the hub from North Park, Lockport High, and Lockport High West. This will provide all students access to get to programming at the hub and walking distance access to spokes programs. Ms. Dickinson has also offered the assistance of the Cyber Lions, a graphic design and videography group at LHS to task with creating a program logo, social media campaign and video to be shared at the schools to promote the opportunity and encourage participation.

Cornerstone CFCU Arena: The programming at Cornerstone Arena will offer two to three different activities to participate in each day, plus the other agency’s programs. These include on-ice activities: hockey, learn to skate, public skate, ice bumper cars, sled hockey, broom ball (three days a week), work out and performance training with Dorian Polk (offered daily), and a general gathering area where students can hang out together, enjoy a snack and beverage and relax after school. Board games, puzzles and crafting supplies will be available for those that are interested, provided in part by Youth Mentoring Services, and a strategic game library purchased from Casual Dragon Games. All students will be asked to pay a \$5 weekly admission fee. This fee will be used to purchase snacks and drinks for the participants. Anyone unable to pay will be granted scholarship. A year-end pizza party may be offered in June with any surplus funds, if available. LIASC will be responsible for program oversight, collaborative partner reporting, disbursements, and the liaison to Grigg Lewis.



Niagara Aquatics Swim Club: Swimming instruction from Niagara Aquatics Swim Club (NASC) will be offered two days per week to all participants. Their coaches will offer training from basic water survival skills through competitive swimmer training. Students will also have the option to utilize the hot tub during those sessions.

Youth Mentoring Services: Programming provided by Youth Mentoring Services (YMS) will offer a once-weekly program at the hub for teens to work on themselves and interacting with others, and mentorship through their “Game of Life” curriculum. YMS is also providing supplies to keep on hand for crafting, puzzles and common board games. When available, YMS will also supplement afterschool refreshments through their grant with the food bank.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County: Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is offering adult and life skills workshops focusing on lessons such as: resume building, budgeting, health and nutrition,

cooking, applying to college; agriculture and more, all at the hub. They have committed to twelve workshops and could offer more, based upon engagement and topics of interest. NCCC had also indicated their desire to push in, to assist with resume help and college applications.

The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army is introducing a program called, “A Seat at the Table”. This offering will focus on justice and spirituality, providing a safe space for teens to talk about their fears, get their questions answered and find comfort in knowing they are not alone. Weekly meetings will be held at their location, where teens can discuss social justice themes (such as racism, the use of power, advocacy in their community, etc.) and their walks with God. This group could serve as a starting point for teens to get involved in their communities through social justice work and community service.



Challenger Learning Center: Challenger Learning Center will compliment Lockport Spokes, by providing STEM programming at their Spokes location at the corner of Walnut and Washburn streets. CLC will be offering three separate programs based upon academic grade level. The first offering will be concentrated on robotics; introducing middle school students to robotics fundamentals (planning, design, construction, programming and operation) but also encourage development of team skills (communication, group organization

and problem solving, task scheduling, and reporting). For older students, CLC will institute a new high school level technology club. Students will explore multiple programming languages, physics and engineering concepts. This program will initially serve as an introduction into building, programming and operation of competition-level robots, and will be a new space for those interested in technology applications to learn various engineering methods, languages, and develop related skills. This program will be project-based, and participants will build a variety of electronic devices, appliances, and “gadgets” of their own interest at their own pace. These programs generally meet at the Center on a weekly basis throughout the academic year.

The CLC will also institute a new high school level astronomy and space science program. This astronomy program will be based on a series of planetarium shows on a variety of topics and will include open discussions and exploration into areas of individual interest. Each week will feature a different in-depth look at an area of astronomy, that may build on topics from previous weeks while also offering the opportunity to join at any time. Students are encouraged to take ownership over the direction of this program and offer input regarding future topics of interest to explore. We are the only local venue with a planetarium and its immersive learning environment. This program would be the only one of its kind in Niagara County for middle and high school astronomy enthusiasts.

The Historic Palace Theatre: Another spoke of Lockport Spokes, HPT is excited to offer bi-weekly offerings around all that is theater. Class themes include: costuming, choreography, set design, singing, stage combat, makeup, tech, resume making, headshots, auditions, Shakespeare, musicals, plays, playwriting, clowning, props, set painting, theatre history and others. Facilitators specializes in the various playhouse areas will enrich this experience for the students. These classes would be offered on a rotating schedule so participating students can plan on which they want to attend. Casual Dragon Games has taken particular interest in the costuming workshops hoping to collaborate and cross-promote cosplay and role play interests.



Girl Scouts of Western New York: Girl Scouts programming depends on girl-driven influence. Girls are given a menu of activities they can participate in, and they direct the course of what they do during the Lockport Spokes programming hours at the hub. For this proposal's purposes we will provide suggestions but not commit to actual programming content until girls are allowed to give input on what they would prefer to do. Girl Scout programming is in line with Common Core Standards.

The content of this programming will build college and employment applications, create networks in their own communities with like-minded girls and adults, provide scholarship opportunities and tackle issues in their own communities all while building leadership skills for each individual girl.

Other programming options include engineering skill building, computer coding, automotive knowledge, college and the application process knowledge, creative writing, art skill building, voting advocacy and democracy involvement, leadership skill building, financial literacy, and many other options for girls to choose.

Casual Dragon Games: CDG will serve as a spoke, as well as a hub participant. As part of this application, LIASC is seeking \$500 to establish a strategic games library, based upon suggestions from CDG. CDG will also provide one weekly two-hour lesson providing guidance and introducing the games to the teens. Additionally, students are welcome at the CDG location on Walnut Street, near Locust, to utilize the game library and gaming rooms for free, daily from 3-9:00 pm. They are thrilled to be included in this opportunity to expose more youth to non-electronic games of strategy and building the gaming community.

Pulp 716: Pulp 716 will be leading a bi-monthly comic book club at the hub. For many teens, comics are the only piece of literature that holds their interest and encourages them to engage in reading. This partnership will include one moderator and all comic book supplies needed for the group. Located on Main Street one block from the hub, students are welcome to visit their location after Lockport Spokes closes daily, to further expand their interests.





How do teens find out about what is available? LIASC will coordinate with the collaborative partners to establish a centralized calendar through the "LKPT Guide" app available on Apple and Android devices. Once teens download the app, they will have access to plan their activities based upon their interests and know what is offered daily and monthly. Often kids are afraid to ask for help or do not know who to ask. With calendar access being crucial, that will be their "excuse" for having the app on their device, giving them the opportunity to browse the other links and gain access to necessary resources and support.

The partnership we are forming with Lockport schools is also crucial. Preliminarily, Ms. Dickinson has offered the possibility of tabling events like open houses, sporting events and other school-sponsored activities to get the word out. Of course, this is all pending COVID restrictions and visitor policies on campus. Having the Cyber Lions design and take ownership for the promotions of the program provides the students with ownership, and reaches another group of students in the community.

Lockport Spokes partners will also promote the program through their social media and newsletter outlets, sharing the same messages and broadening the outreach.

How will funds be tracked and disbursed? All funds will be held by LIASC and paid to the partner agencies in advance, in quarterly stipends. This will be necessary to ensure that programs are being attending, they are impactful, students are interested and engaged, and dollars are being applied appropriately. Each agency will be required to keep a participation log for each day of programming. Reporting will be done through a shared spreadsheet and furnished to Grigg Lewis by the 10th of each following month. LIASC will work with Grigg Lewis to implement the best practice for submitting reports and requesting draws.

How do we get more information? Questions and inquiries should be directed to Shelley Unocic, Executive Director for LIASC, sunocic@cornerstoneicearena.com, or via cell phone 716-531-5124.

Emergency Hotlines		
Adult/Elder Care	Adult Education	Consignment Shops/ Clothing
Domestic Violence	Drug Addiction/ Substance Abuse	Financial Counseling/ Tax Prep
Food Pantries/ Soup Kitchen	Health & Wellness	History & Tourism
Legal Aid	Mental Health	Men's Services
Parenting and Family	Pets	Rape/ Sexual Assault
Recreation	Religion	Special Needs Populations
Sports	Summer Programs	Support Groups
Teen Pregnancy	Transitional Housing	Veteran Services
Volunteer Opportunities	Women's Services	Workforce Development Training
Youth At Risk	Youth Education	Youth Programs