

EcoJustice Summer!

This Summer, the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center and A Village..., Inc., will conduct their five-week EcoJustice Summer Youth program for youth ages 14 - 18. Participants will have the opportunity to earn an income while being engaged in hands-on work and learning related to local ecological and social justice issues. Youth will be employed in food justice activism through the maintenance and operation of Radix's one-acre urban farm as well as numerous gardens throughout Albany's South End cared for by A Village and Radix. Produce harvested from these gardens feeds local Albany residents and is distributed through the South End Healthy Market. Days also consist of educational opportunities, with workshops, guest speakers, and outdoor field trips to local sites. The dates for the program are from Monday, July 9th through Friday, August 10th.

This year, the EcoJustice Summer will be run in conjunction with the new SUNY Albany course "Sociology Research in Action: Ecosystem Justice and Urban Youth". The course will pair high school students with SUNY student mentors who will work together on research projects.

Last summer's program was amazing, with highlights featuring a guest lecture by former Sierra Club President Aaron Mair about the history of environmental justice struggles in Albany, and sessions with DEC scientists monitoring air quality in Albany's South End.

EcoJustice Summer Topics Include:

- Organic gardening
- Raising micro livestock (chickens and ducks)
- Urban Biocultural Diversity
- Composting
- Air Quality Activism
- Renewable Energy (solar and wind)
- Beekeeping
- Aquaponics (fish farming)
- Environmental justice struggles in Albany
- Farmer's markets and food security
- Rain water harvesting and Hudson River Remediation
- Soil testing and lead safety
- Urban Climate Justice
- Bike trips on the Albany County Rail Trail
- Toxic tours of the "bomb trains"
- Kayaking in the Hudson
- Sheep-scaping in Tivoli Park

There are two ways to participate in the program:

Employment option: Albany youth interested in earning an income through the program may register through Albany's Summer Youth Employment Program. Employment Program participants must attend all additional city-organized activities and events outside of Radix as required by the program. **Students must enroll with the city program no later than March 24th, but are encouraged to first attend one of**

the clinics [listed on the city's website](#) . You may request the Ecojustice Summer program on your application, but please also make sure to contact us if you are interested.

Non-employment option: non-Albany residents or youth not interested in enrolling in the city program may still participate in the EcoJustice Program by enrolling directly through Radix/AVillage with a sliding scale tuition. Non-employment participants do not earn an income, however they gain valuable skills and experience through this unique learning opportunity.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.albanyny.gov/Government/Departments/YouthandWorkforceServices/SummerYouthEmploymentProgram.aspx>

And

www.radixcenter.org

<http://www.avillageworks.org/>

Please direct questions to: sk@radixcenter.org