

June 11, 2009

Media contact: Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; cpreisser@scgov.net

Project contact: Jeff Maultsby, 941-232-0675; jmaultsby@scgov.net

County offers summer employment opportunities for youth

Sarasota County Government, along with more than 60 local organizations, agencies and businesses is offering summer employment opportunities to teens and young adults. As part of the Suncoast Workforce Development Board's Summer Youth Employment Program, youth between the ages of 16 and 21 can gain valuable work experience in areas including parks and recreation, libraries and environmental services.

The new Summer Youth Employment Program offers work experience opportunities in fields including legal, healthcare, manufacturing, office administration, agricultural and many more. The program seeks to help youth develop skills needed in the current work environment as well as those needed by the industries of tomorrow. Mentors at the SWDB interview applicants, gauge their skills, identify areas of needed improvement and match them with prospective employers.

"The Summer Youth Employment Program is a great way for teens and young adults to learn the responsibilities of a full-time job, network with local employers and gain valuable real-world work experience," said Jeff Maultsby, manager, Sarasota County Business and Economic Development.

Sarasota County Government expects to provide summer employment opportunities to about 60 teens and young adults.

In addition to helping youth find employment opportunities, the SWDB also pays the salaries and costs for health insurance for the youth during the summer, an added incentive for employers. The SWDB helps Manatee County and Sarasota County residents find jobs with a series of skills assessment tools that allow the job seeker to be matched to local employment opportunities. In addition, the SWDB provides training for existing and displaced workers seeking to improve their skills or in developing new skills.

SWDB is a non-profit agency, funded by the federal government, and has 24 offices located across Florida.

For more information on the 2009 Summer Youth Program, contact the Sarasota County Call Center, 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net and click on Economic Stimulus on the left side of the page.