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**Media contact:** Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; [cpreisser@scgov.net](mailto:cpreisser@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Jeff Maultsby, 941-232-0675; [jmaultsby@scgov.net](mailto:jmaultsby@scgov.net)

## **Sarasota County gives 50 youths real world work experiences**

Sarasota County government is giving 50 youths, age 16-21, summer work experience opportunities as part of the Suncoast Workforce Board's (SWB) Summer Youth Program.

Sarasota County is providing work experience opportunities in libraries, parks and recreation, emergency services, communications, extension services, county administration and other areas. The county is among more than 50 local organizations, agencies and businesses participating in the program.

By the June 1 deadline for applications, SWB had more than 700 applications from teens and young adults. In addition to helping youth find work experience opportunities, the program pays the youths training incentives and covers liability insurance.

"These are real-world positions that carry real-world responsibility," said Sally Hill of the Suncoast Workforce Board. "We had a great response from the business community to this new program."

The SWB, a non-profit agency funded by the federal government that helps Manatee County and Sarasota County job seekers connect to local employment opportunities. In addition, the SWB provides training for existing and displaced workers to improve their skills or develop new skills.

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

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