



Youth Programs

**Got Skills?
Gallaudet University
June 20-27, 2023**

Dear Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor:

Every summer, Gallaudet University, through its Youth Programs office, hosts several camp programs for deaf, and hard of hearing youth. This year's camps are scheduled for June 20-27 and June 28-July 5, 2023 on our picturesque campus in Washington, D.C. Our Summer Youth Camps are designed for middle and high school students up to the age of 19. The camps provide stimulating summer learning and experiential opportunities that blend education, excitement, and enjoyment in a bilingual environment, rich in cultural diversity, located just minutes from the U.S. Capitol.

Gallaudet University is the world's only university designed to be barrier-free for deaf and hard of hearing students. For more than 150 years, Gallaudet University has led advances in education for deaf and hard of hearing students and deaf rights worldwide. Today, students from across the United States and around the globe, diverse in perspective, backgrounds, interests, and communication styles, form an exciting learning community as they prepare for dynamic careers and a lifetime of growth.

We would like to call your attention to Got Skills?, our camp for middle school students. It is designed for deaf and hard of hearing students entering grades 7-9. Campers will choose from a variety of sports and leadership activities and have the ability to design their own camp experience. They will be choosing from activities such as: the Academic Bowl, Football, Basketball, Debate, Soccer, Volleyball, and Science. All campers will get the opportunity to experience team building activities and leadership skills training.

Got Skills? will benefit campers in learning more about themselves and preparing them for success in high school. **Got Skills?** will enable campers to return to school equipped with additional skills, knowledge, and abilities that will be applicable in preparing for their future career development in high school. The following activities have been developed to support our goal in preparing our campers both personally and professionally:

- Experience what it is like to be a student on the Gallaudet University campus.
- Engage in team building activities designed to help campers learn more about leadership, working with others, and completing assignments within time limits.
- Participate in outdoor activities, including a Personal Discovery ropes course, to develop leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and communication skills.

- Learn about self-advocacy and other skills such as debating with camp staff leading workshops and activities.
- Attend fun and educational field trips to explore Washington, D.C.: attractions include the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian museums, The National Holocaust Memorial Museum, Union Station, and many other world-famous sights.

Got Skills? meets the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS/PETS) program in the following areas:

- Campers receive information on post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Campers understand the importance of self-advocacy through career classes, leadership seminars, educational field trips, team-building activities, workshops, and group discussions.

Got Skills? will take place from June 28-July 5, 2023. The camp fee is \$600. This fee covers room, board and various transportation expenses during the camp itself. Campers are responsible for their own transportation costs to and from Washington D.C./Gallaudet University. We will provide round trip transportation to and from Union Station or Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Campers are encouraged to bring their own spending money as well.

We look forward to collaborating with you to support deaf and hard of hearing youth with their transition plans, and to start early in preparing for their future. For more information about our Summer Youth Programs, please see <http://www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps>. Also, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chanel Bonheyo
Manager, Youth Programs