



Police pilot program helps youth dealing with trauma

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A Dayton Police Department pilot program aims to help youth who have experienced trauma. Outdoor Youth Adventures is an eight-week summer program developed by Major Brian Johns.

The goal of the program is to provide 20 young people an educational experience that includes the outdoors and nature to help cope with the post-traumatic stress and anxiety in their everyday lives. Those in the program are also able to form relationships with Dayton police personnel and with other young people going through similar experiences.

The youth have so far visited RiverScape MetroPark to work out with The Unit, do yoga with retired Chief Richard Biehl, and experience learning how to play music.

Week two took the kids to Chaminade-Julienne High School to learn tennis with the school's head coach and a member of the men's tennis team. The following week, the youth spent the day at Dayton FOP Lodge #44 for a morning of fishing with the head of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Mary Mertz, and to experience horseback riding, thanks to the Greene County Mounted Search Team.

Future adventure weeks will include hiking at Germantown Reserve, kayaking on the Great Miami River, BMX bike riding at Mike's Bike Park, equine therapy at Elliott Stables, and golf with Chief Afzal at Community Golf Course.

The community and many of our partner organizations have contributed to this project by providing needed supplies and lunches for the youth. That includes the City of Dayton, Miami Valley CrimeStoppers, CODE Credit Union, Evans Bakery, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Dayton FOP Lodge #44, Shoes for the Shoeless, Five Rivers MetroParks, Attorney Jenifer Petrella, Kroger, Mrs. Carol Rountree, Miami Valley Crime Prevention Association and many others.

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MEDIA: A brief video package is available upon request. Please contact [Bryan Taulbee](#) for details.

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