

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**DATE: March 12, 2019****Contact: Matt Holt, Freeholder**jmholt@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Parks & Recreation Teams Up With Local High School To Support Special Education Students

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation announced it is renewing its partnership with Hunterdon Central High School's Work Readiness Program that helps Special Education Students develop social skills and gain valuable work experience.

Freeholder Matt Holt, Parks & Recreation Division liaison, said, "Cultivating a community which embraces all students is a goal we support here in Hunterdon County. Affording opportunities to students who might otherwise not be given a chance to learn new skills and allowing development of greater confidence, is key to supporting our Special Education students. We are grateful to Hunterdon Central High School for this program and are excited to welcome new volunteers."

Work Readiness Program Volunteers will be able to assist with many of the Parks & Recreation programs. Music Under the Stars, Earth Day, Touch-A-Truck and Trails Day are a few examples of events students are able to volunteer for. Tasks are given such as sign and fence painting, removing litter along trails and in parks, and building bird or bat houses.

Dan Bush, Parks Division Head said, "We are thrilled to have the students come back and help out. The staff is only too happy to help them develop their communication skills by encouraging them to succeed. This experience is a win-win for both the Parks Division and the student.

The goal of this program is to provide authentic and meaningful structured learning experiences. These experiences are integrated into the school curriculum, allowing students the opportunity to perform job responsibilities, follow through with commitments and gain better understanding about the working world."

For more information please visit <https://www.hcrhs.org/student-services/special-education> or call 908-284-7330.