



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BAINBRIDGE
YOUTH SERVICES
askBYS.org

WORK READY BAINBRIDGE: YOUTH COMMUNITY SUMMER EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM RETURNS

Tuesday April 11th - Bainbridge Island, WA – For Immediate Release

The Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce and Bainbridge Youth Services are pleased to announce the return of an eight-week summer employment and workforce certification program connecting local youth employees (ages 16-24) with employers and the local business/nonprofit community on Bainbridge Island. Thanks to the support of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, 2023's program is expanded in size and it's long-term structure and sustainability is now being established.

Program Goals:

1. Place curated selection of local youth into engaging local opportunities accompanied by a living wage for the summer (or multiple summers).
2. Connect local businesses with motivated, driven local youth to develop mutually-beneficial professional relationships in our community.
3. Offer practical experience and education for young people wishing to understand what it means to successfully work in a business setting, and supplement with soft skill workshops on strategic thinking, workplace communication, professionalism, and financial literacy.
4. Certify program graduation with an official Work Ready qualification signed by Chamber President, BYS Exec Director, City Manager, and Bainbridge Rotary President.

2023 Expanded Program Details:

- 20 Work Ready Bainbridge slots available (at 15 employers)
- Employee Commitment: 20 hours a week for 8 weeks
- Employer Commitment: Meaningful project with \$17/hr wage
- \$500 Program Completion Scholarship boosts total compensation
- BYS/Chamber working on community grants, sponsorships, partnerships to further defray employer/admin costs
- Erika Borg of Civic Allies and Rotary's Career Exploration Committee Chair will serve as official program advisor

Project Timeline:

April: Application period for pilot participants/applicants (closes May 1)

May: Youth candidate interviews at BYS

June: Final interviews/decisions/placements

WORK READY LAUNCH DAY: June 26 (first day of Summer)

More information:

workready@bainbridgechamber and/or

workready@bainbridgeyouthservices.org



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WORK READY BAINBRIDGE – 2023 COHORT

What It Is: 8-week summer employment and workforce certification program on Bainbridge Island

What It Does: Connect young employees (ages 16-24) & local employers + business/nonprofit community

HOW IT HELPS

EMPLOYERS RECEIVE:

- ✓ 8 weeks/160 hours work from motivated local young employee (Pre-screened by BYS team)
- ✓ Structured support from Chamber team
- ✓ Reduced wage costs via grants & program sponsors
- ✓ Mentoring opportunity
- ✓ Potential to re-hire same candidate for up to 4 total summers/32 weeks

EMPLOYEES RECEIVE:

- ✓ 8 weeks/160 hours of meaningful summer work in local community (Pre-screened by Chamber)
- ✓ Structured support from BYS team
- ✓ \$20/hr total compensation (upon program completion)
- ✓ Companion soft skills workshops from Rotary
- ✓ Official Certification signed by Chamber/BYS/Rotary/City

For the community: Professional program activates public support of youth, entrepreneurs, small business, and our community within structured environment, goals & outcomes

**Generously Funded
With a Grant From**



**Rotary Club of
Bainbridge Island**

MORE INFORMATION AT [BAINBRIDGECHAMBER.COM/WORK-READY-BAINBRIDGE](https://bainbridgechamber.com/work-ready-bainbridge)