

Haverstraw Center- Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q. Is there a fee to participate in the programs at the Center?

A. In most cases, the programs and activities at Haverstraw Center are free of charge. All of the Positive Alternative Activities for Youth, Recreational Activities, and Curriculum and Activity Based Programs listed are free. There is a charge for some of the Counseling Services (on a sliding scale, and/or through volunteerism at the Center), and for Summer Camp (but not for the Summer Youth Program). All Community Service programs are free, except for the Haverstraw Mental Health Clinic.

Q. How can a community organization use the facilities at the Center?

A. The Center may be used for public benefit by not-for-profit agencies and for free events that benefit the Village of Haverstraw community. Decisions as to the use of the Center are made by the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Mayor and Village Board. A fee will usually be charged for the use of the Center, depending upon the purpose and status of the organization using the facility (not-for-profit organizations will have a reduced fee).

Q. Is the Center available for private parties and private rentals?

A. In most cases, no. Haverstraw Center is a public facility, and is usually open to the general public free of charge. The Village policy is to not allow for this use of the Center. Exceptions to this policy may only be made by the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Mayor and Village Board.

Q. Are the services at Haverstraw Center bi-lingual?

A. Most of the programs and services at Haverstraw Center include bi-lingual (Spanish-speaking) staff and program materials.

Q. Is smoking or alcohol use ever permitted at Haverstraw Center?

A. NEVER. Haverstraw Center is a smoke-free, vape-free, substance-free (including alcohol and/or any other mind-altering drug) facility. This applies not only to the Center's own programs, but to any group using the facility for any reason.

Q. May parents attend any programs at the Center?

A. Yes. Parents are encouraged to attend the Monthly Youth Celebration, Holiday Celebrations, and special events at the Center. In addition, there are specific programs for parents and children (Strengthening Families, Spanish Speaking Parents' Group) designed for parent participation.

Q. Is Haverstraw Center responsible to ensure that my child is supervised within the Center?

A. Haverstraw Center is entirely responsible for your child's safety and well-being while on our premises. HOWEVER- if your child chooses to leave the Center, we are not responsible, nor are we able to force your child to remain here. Haverstraw Center is not a daycare center, and is not staffed sufficiently to monitor children who choose to leave the building during our regular schedule. For this reason, we limit the age of participation to 8 years and up, with the assumption that children this age will be able to navigate these issues successfully. **THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO SUMMER DAYCAMP- we are staffed and licensed to directly supervise your child's activities in camp, and are responsible for their whereabouts.**

Q. How can I donate to the Haverstraw Center?

A. There is a not-for-profit organization, the Community Enrichment Network Toward Empowerment and Renewal (The CENTER), that accepts tax-deductible contributions/donations for programs and special activities at the Haverstraw Center, such as summer camp scholarships, holiday events, etc. Contact Marion Breland, the Executive Director of Haverstraw Center, if you would like further information.

Q. Does the Center use volunteers?

A. Yes! Volunteers are welcome at Haverstraw Center. To volunteer, contact Pete Fata, Assistant Director, at (845) 429-5731 ext. 14. Volunteers must fill out forms explaining their interest in working at the Center, and are subject to background checks. There are many volunteer opportunities at the Center, including helping youth with homework, recreational activities, or special events. We also accept candidates looking for community service opportunities, such as high school students, or those who must make restitution through a court order.

Q. How is Haverstraw Center funded?

A. Haverstraw Center is funded mostly through Village of Haverstraw tax dollars. A large contribution to the licensed counseling services at Haverstraw Center comes from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Other contributions to the programs and services of the Center come from the Rockland County Youth Bureau, Rockland YMCA (through a United Way grant), the Town of Haverstraw, Village of West Haverstraw, and other grants as they are available (i.e. SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Support grant).

Questions about Positive Alternative Activities for Youth

Q. How can I register my child for Homework Help at the Center?

A. There is usually a waiting list for Homework Help. Please contact Nikki Merriman, Recreation Activities Coordinator at the Center, at (845) 429-5731 ext. 20 for further information and/or to put your child on our list.

Q. Will my child be bused to Haverstraw Center for Homework Help?

A. Yes, by prior arrangement with the Center and the North Rockland Central School District Transportation Office. Please note: on school holidays, or in the event of school closures due to weather or other circumstances, children will be bused directly home- NOT to the Center.

Q. How can I sign my child up for the JUMP program?

A. JUMP is administered through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County. You may contact them at (845) 634-2199, or ask a Haverstraw Center staff member for an application.

Q. How can I become a JUMP mentor?

A. JUMP is administered through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County. You may contact them at (845) 634-2199. Mentors are screened and subject to a background check.

Questions about Recreational Activities

Q. Is there a fee for the Haverstraw Center recreational programs?

A. No- not for programs offered directly by the Center. There are some outside programs (i.e. basketball clinics, PAL, girls' soccer league) that are sponsored by other agencies/organizations, and these may or may not charge a fee.

Q. What hours am I able to use the gym at the Haverstraw Center?

A. There is a weekly schedule of activities posted at the Center and online on the Village website. The schedule lists the times available to each age group and/or organization. If you need more information, please call (845) 429-5731.

Q. How does my child become involved in the Salvation Army program? Is there a fee?

A. The Salvation Army program at the Haverstraw Center is offered free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. You may sign up by contacting Nikki Merriman, Recreation Activities Coordinator, at (845)429-5731 ext. 20.

Q. How do I sign my child/family up for the holiday celebrations or special activities at the Center?

A. Please check the Center's schedule, posted at the Center or available online, for when these activities take place. You may sign up by contacting Nikki Merriman, Recreation Activities Coordinator, at (845)429-5731 ext. 20.

Questions about Curriculum and Activity Based Programs

Q. Is there a fee for the Strengthening Families Program?

A. No- it is free, including dinner, babysitting, and all activities.

Q. How do I sign up for the Strengthening Families Program?

A. To sign your family up for the Strengthening Families Program, call Vanessa Lopez at (845) 429-5731 ext. 10, or Nikki Merriman at (845) 429-5731 ext. 20. *NOTE- Children whose parents sign up for Strengthening Families receive priority on the Homework Help waiting list.*

Q. What happens if my family does not attend all 6 sessions of Strengthening Families?

A. The program has lessons that build upon each other for parents and children, so it is important to attend each one to get the most out of it. Your family is only allowed one absence from Strengthening Families, or you will not receive a certificate of completion. If you miss more than one session, you will be eligible to sign up for the next cycle (we offer Strengthening Families twice a year, in the fall and in the spring).

Q. Is the Strengthening Families offered in Spanish?

A. Yes, the parent portion of the Strengthening Families program is offered in Spanish and English.

Q. Do you have to have been arrested or involved in the criminal justice system to attend Project SHIFT?

A. No- we will accept referrals from parents, school, friends, or anyone (including a young person who believes he/she could benefit from the program).

Q. Is what I say in Project SHIFT confidential, or does it get reported to the court/probation/my parent?

A. What you discuss with your counselor in Project SHIFT is confidential, except if you are a danger to yourself and/or others, or there is criminal activity (including child abuse). You and your counselor will agree on what is reported to any outside agency- usually it is your attendance, progress, and results of urine screens, with your written consent.

Q. Will I be drug tested in Project SHIFT?

A. Yes. It is a requirement of the program that participants submit to urine drug screens, so that we know if the program is effective for you, or more/different help is needed.

Q. How does someone get involved in the Managing Emotions group or individual sessions?

A. Potential participants in Managing Emotions are interviewed by the Assistant Director, Pete Fata, to be sure that they would benefit from the program and be able to participate in a positive way.

Q. How does my child become part of the Girls' Circle/Lifeskills, or Boys' Council/Lifeskills program?

A. Referrals to these programs are made through the Haverstraw Center's Assistant Director, Pete Fata, who will determine if the group is right for them, and/or what other services we

might be able to offer through Haverstraw Center or another agency. He can be reached at (845) 429-5731 ext. 14.

Questions about Counseling Services

Q. Are counseling services through Reachout at the Haverstraw Center confidential?

A. Yes. Anything discussed in counseling at the Center is confidential, with a couple of exceptions: if you are in danger of harming yourself or another person, or are the victim of ongoing child abuse or neglect, we will have to involve outside agencies and contact your parent/guardian.

Q. If I want to come in for counseling, will my parent have to know?

A. No- we are licensed so that young people are able to come for counseling services without parents' consent if necessary. We do encourage young people to involve their parents, but this is not a barrier to coming in for help.

Q. What does it cost for counseling services at Haverstraw Center?

A. In most cases, counseling services are free. In some cases, there may be a fee on a sliding scale. No one is ever denied help based on an inability to pay.

Q. How does someone get into counseling or Teen Intervene at Haverstraw Center?

A. You can call the Center at (845) 429-5731, and ask for Pete Fata, our Assistant Director, at extension 14. You may also drop by Haverstraw Center during our regular business hours to speak to Pete or another qualified staff member about getting into counseling here. You will be asked to fill out an application (answers kept strictly confidential), and will be interviewed by Pete or another qualified person to see what counseling services would suit you best.

Q. What are the qualifications of the staff providing counseling services through Reachout at the Haverstraw Center?

A. All counseling staff is trained and supervised by Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors/Prevention Professionals. Counselors receive regular, ongoing individual and group supervision.

Questions about Summer Programs

Q. How do I get my child into summer camp?

A. Contact Haverstraw Village Hall- (845) 429-0300, or stop by Village Hall at 40 New Main Street, Haverstraw NY. 10927 to pick up a camp application and/or any information needed.

Q. Can my child attend summer camp if we don't live in the Village of Haverstraw?

A. Yes, but there is an additional fee for non-Village residents. Contact Village Hall for further information- (845) 429-0300.

Q. Are there scholarships available for summer camp?

A. Yes, through the Community Enrichment Network Towards Empowerment and Renewal (The CENTER). Contact Haverstraw Center for further information.

Q. If I am in summer school, can I still attend camp?

A. If you are a teen who is in summer school, Haverstraw Center has a summer program in the afternoons (The Summer Youth Program), available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Nikki Merriman at (845) 429-5731 ext. 20 for more information.

Questions about Community Service Programs

Q. Can anyone attend the Haverstraw Collaborative, or is it only open to certain groups?

A. Anyone may attend to observe the Collaborative; however, only human services organizations serving Haverstraw are able to participate and/or make presentations to the group.

Q. What does the Haverstraw Collaborative do to benefit the community?

A. The Haverstraw Collaborative is involved in many activities that benefit the community. The Collaborative members mutually share information about programs and services benefitting Haverstraw, plan joint ways to meet community needs (food drives, teen pregnancy prevention projects, out of school activities for youth, information and education regarding important topics), and generally support ongoing human services activities in the North Rockland area. Some ongoing projects of the Collaborative include Unity in the Community (an annual multi-day event for North Rockland youth during the school holidays) and the Hunger Awareness Day (raising awareness about food insecurity in our community).

Q. How can I learn more about the Haverstraw Literacy Zone, or sign up for literacy or computer classes?

A. For information about the programs and services of the Literacy Zone, call (845) 429-5731 ext. 13, or visit them at their new location- 63 New Main Street, Haverstraw. Information is available in Spanish and English.