

What is SWEP?

SWEP is a 5-6 week specialized, 'hands-on', residential (dorm living) summer training program for Oregon teens age 16-20 who are legally blind. SWEP participants get the chance to complete a paid summer work experience, develop essential workplace skills, build self confidence and prepare for future employment opportunities.

Through this program, like at any other summer job, participants learn to organize and prioritize tasks, effectively manage time, provide excellent internal and external customer service and operate both professionally and independently.



What can I expect at SWEP?

This 5-6 week program will give you a taste of the world of work and more! You'll train with OCB experts in assistive technology, vocational exploration and mobility. Mentors who have been in your shoes and have gone on to achieve their goals will help you navigate the waters and give you the chance to share your experiences and learn...but it's not all work.



During your time at SWEP you will take part in a variety of recreational activities such as fencing, hiking, tandem biking, paddle boarding and game nights. You will make new friends, develop new skills and leave with more confidence than you likely ever imagined was possible!

"Having a 'real' job in the community was such an amazing experience. This program is truly life changing"
-SWEP Participant 2015

Who is eligible for SWEP?

Each SWEP participant must be:

- 16 years of age and no older than 20 years of age
- An Oregon resident who is legally blind or has a condition leading to legal blindness
- Able to work legally in the United States
- Motivated to work hard and learn new skills
- An OCB Client (or interested in becoming a client)

What kinds of jobs could I do?

Our students have held a wide variety of jobs in the past including:

Video Editor/Technology Assistant
Gardener Production Assistant
Prep Cook/Food Runner
Customer Service
Exhibit Presenter
Retail Assistant
Receptionist
Data Entry
Tour Guide



Where do SWEP Participants work?



OMSI

YMCA | childcare



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OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

*Expanding Opportunities
for Oregonians with
Vision Loss*

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REGIONAL OFFICES

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Eugene (541) 686-7990

Medford (541) 776-6047

Portland (971) 673-1588

Salem (503) 378-8479

Want to learn more?
Call or write today!

SWEP Team

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SWEP

SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM