

SOPHOMORES – MAY NEWSLETTER

Julie Sitko, College and Career Counselor
jsitko@moonarea.net
412-264-9440, ext. 2038

Hello from the Counseling Center at Moon Area High School. My name is Julie Sitko and I am the College and Career Counselor. This is the time start thinking about life after high school. My role is to advise and support students and families in the college search and to help identify “best fit” colleges and universities, and to assist students in realizing their post-secondary goals. This monthly newsletter will keep you on track for post-secondary planning. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Deep Dive into a College (any college): If you really want to dig into data related to college admissions, retention, financial aid, <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> is Department of Education website, so the information on the site is gathered from will be the most accurate information available. They also have helpful information about alternatives to college and affordability.

Summer Programs:

CCAC Early College programs: Students can take certain credit and non-credit courses offered virtually for free – they also receive a stipend. This is a part of CCAC’s Early College Program- a program funded by a generous gift from Bank of New York Mellon. The goal of this program is to help expand access to college and career readiness for those who may or may not have the resources to do so on their own. For more information, call 724-325-6675 or email earlycollegeprogram@ccac.edu.

[Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\) 2025 Summer Health Career Academy](#)

This program is open to students who are interested in learning more about various careers in healthcare. Over the course of 5 days this July, students will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in various health care professions and participate in hands-on simulations. The Academy is hosted at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. A confirmation email will be sent once the application is received. **Applications are due by May 3rd, 2025.** If you have any questions, please reach out to HCA@SouthwestAHEC.org.

[UPMC Sports Medicine Student Aide Workshop:](#)

Saturday, May 17 from 8:00-4:00

Lemieux Sports Complex

This is for high school students interested in a career in athletic training. Students will be exposed to elements of our key topics through lecture, demonstration, and presentations. The main topics will cover the role of an athletic trainer in multiple settings, anatomy and evaluation, concussion, therapeutic exercise, and career opportunities.

Topics include:

- Career exploration
- Therapeutic exercise
- Modalities
- Anatomy and evaluation
- Concussions
- Spine boarding & equipment removal
- Medical terminology
- Taping and bracing

Students must register here: [Student Athletic Trainers' Workshop | Southwest Pa. \(upmc.com\)](#)

There are only 40 spots for this program and there is a cost of \$40.00/student.

[Phipps EcoLeader Academy:](#) A free seven-week course at Phipps Conservatory for motivated high school students to explore key topics in environmental science—like ecosystems, climate change, policy, and sustainability—while building skills in communication, collaboration, and public speaking. Held one afternoon a week (Wednesday or Thursday, 12:30–4:30), the program also offers a participation stipend.

[Simcoach Games](#) is accepting applications for its 2025 Summer Apprenticeship in Game Design and Development starting on June 9 and running through July 18. They are looking for Summer Apprentices to build game prototypes as employees of Simcoach Games' Game Studio. You will PRACTICE PRODUCING (scheduling, team leader, organizing), STORYTELLING (business, marketing, game design), ART (2d/3d art, animation, concepting, performance), GAME DESIGN (goals, rules design, what content is translated to interactivity within a game framework) and DEVELOPING (coding) as part of a team.

[CCAC Skilled Trades Academy](#): CCAC is seeking high school students ages 14 to 18 with an interest in pursuing a trades career to participate in the Skilled Trades Academy. The program will take place at CCAC's West Hills Center and consists of five courses:

- June 11 - Electrical
- June 12 - Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- June 17 – Commercial Driver's License (truck driving)
- June 25 - Welding
- June 26 – Automotive

All sessions are from 9AM – 1PM. Lunch will be provided. This is a FREE program!