



## Next Step to Success Weekly Update



## A Message from our Executive Director

☀️ Week One — We're Off and Running!


What a start to Summer 2026! Our first week has been all about building community — getting to know each other, learning the ropes, and laying the foundation for an incredible summer ahead. Our youth have been jumping into team-building activities,


making new friends, and showing up every single day with energy and enthusiasm that makes our whole team so proud. This is exactly what Next Step to Success is all about!

Today, we also take a moment to honor Juneteenth — a day that celebrates freedom, resilience, and the strength of our community. We hope all of our NSTS families have a meaningful day of reflection and celebration.

And speaking of great days — our Top Golf field trip was an absolute blast! 🏌️‍♂️ Watching our youth step onto the range, try something new, and cheer each other on was one of those moments that reminds you why this work matters so much. Smiles all around! 🏌️‍♂️

A few important updates for our NSTS families — for more details on each of the items below, please see the full message from our leadership team:

 College Planning Opportunity — Our friends at Study Point are hosting a FREE webinar on the true cost of college, financial aid, and navigating the college funding process. This is a great resource for families with youth thinking about their future! Registration info is linked below.

 Field Trip Update — We know many of you are curious about our summer field trip schedule! Our outings are planned throughout the summer to take advantage of unique, meaningful experiences as they come up. Every outing is carefully planned with the safety, growth, and enrichment of your child in mind. We will always keep you informed!

For full details on both of these updates, please see the complete message from our leadership team below. 📌

Thank you for trusting us with your youth this summer. We cannot wait to see what the weeks ahead have in store! 🎉

— James Harris  
Executive Director  
Next Step to Success

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## Summer 2026 — We're Just Getting Started!

Summer Program 2026 is officially underway, and what a first week it has been! We are thrilled to share that this summer marks record-breaking enrollment for NSTS, with 130 youth joining us for the season. Even more exciting — our first week of programming brought record attendance as well, with our youth showing up ready to connect, learn, and have fun from day one!

Of course, with growth comes a few growing pains, and we want to thank our families for their patience, flexibility, and grace as we work through the natural adjustments that come with welcoming so many incredible young people into our program at once. Your support does not go unnoticed, and we are so grateful for the trust you continue to place in NSTS.

Seeing our youth show up day after day, building friendships, trying new things, and diving into all that this summer has to offer has truly set the tone for what is shaping up to be our best summer yet. From hands-on workshops to exciting field trips, our Success Coaches are working hard to make sure every day is filled with purpose, fun, and growth.

As always, if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out — we are here for you and your family every step of the way.

Thank you for being part of the NSTS family. Here's to an amazing summer ahead!

# NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS

*Building Brighter Futures, One Step at a Time!*

## SUMMER PROGRAM 2026

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



#### 1 WHEN WILL THE SUMMER PROGRAM BEGIN?

Summer Program begins on **Monday, June 15, 2026** and ends **Friday, August 7, 2026**.



#### 6 WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Our program is open to youth ages **13–18** (18 still in High School) who are primary residents of Norfolk.



#### 2 WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM HOURS?

Monday – Friday  
**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
*(Hours may vary slightly for offsite activities.)*



#### 7 WHAT SHOULD MY YOUTH BRING?

A backpack, water bottle, healthy lunch (if not provided), comfortable clothes, and a positive attitude!



#### 3 WHERE WILL THE PROGRAM BE HELD?

Our primary location is **3401 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23509**.



#### 8 IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?

Yes! Our Success Coaches will begin picking up youth in the morning beginning at **8:00 AM** and dropping off youth at the end of the day beginning at **3:00 PM**.



#### 4 WHAT'S THE COST OF THE PROGRAM?

The program is **FREE** for all youth ages 13–18 (18 still in High School and primary residents of Norfolk).



#### 9 HOW WILL I STAY INFORMED?

Updates will be provided via email, text messages, phone calls, flyers, and our website. Please make sure we have your current contact information!



#### 5 HOW DO I REGISTER?

To apply, please visit **[www.nextsteptosuccess.org](http://www.nextsteptosuccess.org)** and click on **"Apply Now"**.



#### 10 WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Call **(757) 995-2111** or email **[info@nextsteptosuccess.org](mailto:info@nextsteptosuccess.org)**.



*Learn. Grow. Lead. Succeed!* ♥



Next Step To Success  
3401 Tidewater Drive  
Norfolk, VA 23509



[www.nextsteptosuccess.org](http://www.nextsteptosuccess.org)

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**Good Food. Good Mood. Chef B's Got You Covered!**

**SUMMER MENU**

POWERED BY **CONFIDENCE CAFE**

**EAT UP & LEVEL UP!**

**MONDAY**

**BREAKFAST**  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**LUNCH**  
GRILLED BURGERS  
BAKED BEANS  
POPSICLES

**SNACK**  
BELVITA BARS

**TUESDAY**

**BREAKFAST**  
BISCUITS & GRAVY WITH SCRAMBLED EGGS

**LUNCH**  
CHICKEN ELOTE BOWLS  
CHURRO STICKS

**SNACK**  
CHIPS

**WEDNESDAY**

**BREAKFAST**  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**LUNCH**  
WING WEDGES  
PUDDING CUPS

**SNACK**  
COOKIES

**THURSDAY**

**BREAKFAST**  
TURKEY SAUSAGE BISCUITS & HASHBROWNS

**LUNCH**  
CHICKEN RANCH OR CAESAR WRAPS W/ CHIPS

**SNACK**  
CHEX MIX

**FRIDAY**

**BREAKFAST**  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**LUNCH**  
CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICHES  
POPSICLES

**SNACK**  
COOKIES

**GOOD FOOD. GOOD VIBES. BIG CONFIDENCE.**

**THIS SUMMER, WE FUEL BODIES & BUILD CONFIDENCE!**

**EAT WELL. GROW STRONG. SHINE ALL SUMMER LONG!**

## NSTS Leadership Insights



**Carly Gelles**  
Director of Education

Our Summer Program is off to a great start! This first week has been focused on helping students learn the lay of the land, get to know one another, and build strong relationships with their peers and staff. Through a variety of fun team-building activities, students are developing confidence, strengthening their sense of community, and creating a positive foundation for a successful summer. As we continue supporting students in preparing for

their futures, we also want to share a valuable opportunity for families: Study Point, an SAT prep and college planning organization, is hosting a free webinar covering the true cost of college, financial aid, and how to navigate the college funding process. Registration information can be found at the link provided below:

[Click Here!](#)

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**Kaelyn Hundley**  
**Director of Programming**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have received several questions regarding summer field trips and whether a complete schedule can be provided in advance. We wanted to share some information about how field trips are planned at Next Step to Success.

Unlike traditional camps that follow a fixed field trip schedule, many of our outings are determined throughout the summer based on several factors, including group assignments, group size, staff-to-youth ratios, weather conditions, and community partner availability. This flexibility allows us to create meaningful experiences that are safe, engaging, and appropriate for each group of youth.

One of the core goals of our program is to expose young people to new opportunities, experiences, and places within their city and surrounding communities. Throughout the summer, youth may visit parks, museums, community organizations, local businesses, recreational facilities, educational sites, and other destinations that help them learn, explore, and grow. Many of these opportunities become available on short notice, allowing us to take advantage of unique experiences that may not have been planned months in advance.

While we are unable to provide a complete field trip schedule for the entire summer, please know that our staff carefully plans each outing with the safety, development, and enrichment of our youth in mind. We will continue to communicate with families regarding special trips or any activities that require additional information.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We are excited to help our youth create lasting memories while exploring all that our community has to offer this summer.

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**From DePaul's Legacy to the Next Generation's Future**

# WERE YOU BORN AT DEPAUL HOSPITAL?

Your story started here. Now, help write the next chapter.

Then






Our Future



From a Legacy of *care...* To where *futures* are built.

 **HONOR THE PAST.  
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.**

Purchase a commemorative brick and be part of transforming the historic DePaul Hospital site into the future home of Next Step to Success.

-  Leave a Lasting Legacy
-  Honor a Loved One or Family
-  Support Norfolk's Youth



SCAN TO  
**BUY YOUR  
BRICK  
Today!**



**NEXT STEP**  **TO SUCCESS**

 **St. Vincent de Paul House**  
Future Home of Next Step to Success

## Were You Born at the Historic DePaul Hospital?

For generations, DePaul Hospital was more than a building. It was where families began, where first breaths were taken, and where lifelong stories started.

If you or someone you love has a connection to DePaul, this is your opportunity to honor that legacy in a meaningful and lasting way. Next Step to Success is proud to carry that history forward as we transform this historic space into a place where young people can grow, learn, and build their futures. By purchasing a commemorative brick, you become a permanent part of this next chapter — celebrating the past while investing in the future of Norfolk's youth.

Each brick tells a story. Each name becomes part of the foundation.

**Honor your DePaul story. Invest in their future. Purchase your commemorative brick today.**

[Buy a Brick](#)

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Next Step To Success | 3401 Tidewater Dr. | Norfolk,  
VA 23509 US



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