



Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

Re: Imagine Corps - Innovation Camp for Metrowest Teens July 7-10 - NEXT STEPS

1 message

Joseph Gammal <jgammal@synecticsworld.com>

Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 12:15 PM

To: Dawn Alcott Alcott <dalcott@hopkintonma.gov>, Erin Bartolini <ebartolini@hopkintonma.gov>, Colleen Souza <csouza@hopkintonma.gov>

Cc: Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>, Julia Chun <jchun@hopkintonma.gov>

Hi Dawn, Erin, Colleen, and the kind and caring masked person seated to my left whose name I've forgotten (apologies 😊),

Thanks so much for the chance last Thursday to meet with our Youth & Family Services team!

Please see below my paraphrase of the potential Imagine Corps teen challenges we discussed.

I'm meeting with Julia Chun and the Sustainable Green Committee today at 5pm. I'd especially like to make sure I understand the Transportation challenge well as I'd like to see if it could be a "shared challenge/opportunity" for the Sustainable Green Committee or if it is distinct from their interests.

Potential Y&FS Community Challenges for Imagine Corps Innovation Camp:

- Transportation
 - How to provide around-the-town community transportation for those without cars or unable to drive (younger, older, solo, and/or without car etc)
- Food
 - How to continue free meals in the summer to students in need ... stigma free
- Substance Prevention —
 - How to expand the success of Nicotine Free Generation across Metrowest ...
 - How to engage Middle School students in the movement.
 - How to boost substance prevention with youth overall

I welcome your refinement of these. I understand your preference was for the Transportation and Food challenge at this moment in time.

Next Steps

- **Selecting a Challenge** — We'll want to offer 1, 2 or 3 (at most) options to the teens and have them select the area of most interest to them — ie. say, "heck, ya", I want to work on that. Similarly, if we choose one challenge area, I'll want to afford the teens the chance to choose/shape an aspect of it to really focus on. Encouraging their agency and excitement to tackle "a challenge" is important as it will increase commitment, enjoyment, and desire to see to whatever they invent come to fruition in the community. I'll circle back with you later this week, Dawn.
- **Grants:** Dawn, which ones might open the possibility for grant funding (and in turn participation scholarships)? How can I help? The Lions Club of Hopkinton is a "funding partner" for to the extent the extent a local non-profit is helpful.
- **Your Participation** — I ask that whoever is the lead "challenge owner(s)" for the particular challenge(s) we choose to present with the teens and me a few points during the Innovation Camp — July 7-10 (4:30-8:30pm). I can provide details. All of you will be welcome to join for the **CONCEPT JAM & CELEBRAION (sharing of ideas) July 10, 6:30-8:30pm**
- **Reaching students**
 - Thanks for your tips Colleen — I'll connect with National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society in Hopkinton.
 - I'll have an Ad running in the next Hopkinton Independent
 - Parks & Rec (Jon Lewiston) will include it in their outreach.
 - If you have any other ideas or can please share social media post or forward email/flyer below or make an introduction, I'd really appreciate it. You can even nominate a teen, at www.imaginecorps.org
- **Please spread the word — Apply for the camp, nominate a friend, and or sign-up a FREE experiential 1-hr "Taste of Imagine Corps" (next one Monday, June 16th 6:30-7:30pm Zoom). Register here: www.imaginecorps.org/about**

Thanks, Dawn and team, for your collaboration and support whatever direction we go for this year!

Best, Joe

Joe Gammal

Founder | **Imagine Corps** | www.imaginecorps.org

Managing Partner | **Synecticsworld** | www.synecticsworld.com

[Joe's LinkedIn](#) Mobile Phone: 508-380-9015

Hopkinton Independent Article - "[Imagine Corps Pairs Teens with Local Non-Profits](#)"

Martha's Vineyard Radio - [MVY Radio - Imagine Corps Interview](#)

Possibility ~ Impact ~ Resilience



On Jun 3, 2025, at 3:12 PM, Joseph Gammal <jgammal@synecticsworld.com> wrote:

Hi Dawn, Shaun, Erin, and Colleen,

It was wonderful to spend time with you yesterday.

As promised, below please find a description of Imagine Corps including a teen friendly outreach for our **Imagine Corps 2025 Innovation Camp for MetroWest Teens, July 7-10 (4:30-8:30pm)** at the **YMCA Outdoor Center**. **Flyer also attached, too, plus** lot's of links to learn more about past 5 years of Imagine Corps cohorts in Hopkinton, Martha's Vineyard, and elsewhere.

Potential MetroWest Community Challenge: While we can explore other challenges, and have some early conversations with Julian Chun around sustainability, I'm really excited about the prospects of extending the movement/momentum that you and our Hopkinton teens (Hop Youth +) have begun for a **Nicotine Free Generation (NFG)** to surrounding towns in MetroWest. **How might MetroWest teens be a catalysts for the NFG tipping point?** It seems the potential for impact is really timely. If the stars all aligned for a collaboration, I would consider moving the dates of Imagine Corps to your planned youth event at the YMCA later in July, or having Imagine Corps be a primer for your event, or most likely, in some way supporting both.

Dawn, Errin, Colleen, I look forward to exploring this with you Thursday or when you can. We have a small window of time to reach middle and high school teens before school ends. I appreciate your help.

Our two big opportunities:

- How to reinforce what you AND teens would say "Heck, ya" I want to work on that.
- How to make teens aware of the opportunity we create:
 - I've only begun to reach out to Holliston and Ashland ([Ashland Community Bulletin Board for Imagine Corps](#)). I think the trick is getting to existing groups of teens that are already inclined to want to make a difference.
 - I'd especially like to reach out to Neha Ninan to explore this idea with her... as an extension of the journey she and her group have been on. Would you make this connection for me?
- How to provide scholarships as necessary
 - The Lions Club is already a funding partner, Select energy is considering, and a grant to make it FREE for all participants would be ideal.... but may be too late this time around but who knows.

I look forward to exploring.

In the meantime, please share with anyone — students, parents, or community members — you think would be interested ... or nominate students (on our website, too). www.imaginecorps.org

With appreciation, Joe

IMAGINE CORPS is a collaborative innovation learning and community service program for youth — our future impact makers. It's designed to provide 21st Century facilitative leadership, creative problem-solving, collaboration, and resiliency skills they need to help succeed in school, work, and relationships. And then pairs them with non-profits so they can apply their new skills to real challenges in the community.

Imagine Corps 2025 Summer Innovation Camp, July 7-10, 4:30-8:30pm

Fun, friends, innovation—and a chance to make a real impact!

Imagine Corps returns to this summer! Join other MetroWest teens for an exciting four-day Innovation Camp designed to boost your creative and collaborative problem-solving skills, earn community service hours—all while tackling a real community challenge. It's an impactful way to enhance your college applications as well.

Here's what to expect:

- Days 1-2: Interactive workshops to sharpen your innovation, creativity, and teamwork.
- Days 3-4: Put your new skills into action, solving a real challenge framed by the **Town of Hopkinton - Sustainability and Economic Development** and shaped by YOU! .
- Final night: Showcase your emerging ideas/solutions at a high-energy Concept Jam & Celebration with community stakeholders.

Program Details:

- **When:** July 7-10, 4:30-8:30 pm (early evenings only)
- **Where:** YMCA Outdoor Center (Hayes Building), Hopkinton, MA
- **Who:** Students ages 13-17 (rising 8th-12th graders)
- **Cost:** \$399 (scholarships available)

Apply for the camp, nominate a friend, and or sign-up a FREE experiential **1-hr Taste of Imagine Corps** (next one Monday, June 16th 6:30-7:30pm Zoom). Register here: www.imaginecorps.org/about

Check out past successes from Hopkinton, Martha's Vineyard, St. Thomas, and beyond at [Imagine Corps Success/Experiences \(2020-2024\)](#).

Questions? Reach out anytime!

TEEN INNOVATORS WANTED

Got ideas? Let's make them real.

Build bold ideas with a team and make a difference in your community.



IMAGINE CORPS 2025 INNOVATION CAMP

for Metrowest Teens (ages 13-17)

- Team up with creative minds
- Solve real challenges from your community
- Build leadership, confidence & problem solving
- Earn community service credits



July 7-10, 2025

4:30 - 8:30 pm

YMCA Outdoor Center
Hopkinton, MA

Make a difference.

APPLY NOW



www.imaginecorps.org

Scholarships available.

Limited spots.

Imagine Corps
~~ 2025 ~~



Possibility. Impact. Resilience.

Joe Gammal*Founder* | **Imagine Corps** | www.imaginecorps.org*Managing Partner* | **Synecticsworld** | www.synecticsworld.com[Joe's LinkedIn](#) *Mobile Phone: 508-380-9015*Hopkinton Independent Article - ["Imagine Corps Pairs Teens with Local Non-Profits"](#)Martha's Vineyard Radio - [MVY Radio - Imagine Corps Interview](#)*Possibility ~ Impact ~ Resilience*