



WILLIAM "BILL" AUSTEN YOUTH CENTER
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MAY 13, 2026



Youth Center Mission

To provide the youth population of Cape Coral with safe, healthy activities and facilities that promote the development of positive attitudes, healthy lifestyles and personal community involvement.

The Youth Center strives to offer the best programs in the area yet still maintain reasonable prices for the growing community with all youth programs and events. The goal is to keep programming affordable for all families, as our main concern is not only the safety of the children but also ensuring they are building core memories.

William “Bill” Austen Youth Center

This program is a discretionary, quality-of-life service not required by Federal Law, State Statute or Local Code. Something unique Cape Coral provides for our citizens.



Revenues & Expenditures

FY26 City Operating Expense Budget

\$2,109,536

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Revenues	\$ 1,294,241.41	\$1,412,509.66	\$ 1,202,369.23	\$ 982,869.17	\$ 904,929.57	\$ 795,527.70
Expenses	\$ 2,147,848.34	\$1,987,243.12	\$ 1,708,385.59	\$ 1,489,242.79	\$ 1,201,612.75	\$1,421,177.15
Subsidy	\$ 853,606.93	\$ 574,733.46	\$ 506,016.36	\$ 506,373.62	\$ 296,683.18	\$ 625,649.45
Cost Recovery Percentage	60%	71%	70%	66%	75%	56%

5 Full Time Staff

24 Contract Staff – will increase with Summer Camp Programming

Capital Projects

FY25: Six New HVAC Units – \$91,444

FY25: New Additional Skate Park Ramps – \$26,705

FY25: Impact Doors for Safety – \$44,945

FY24: Modular Skate Park Building – \$47,692

FY21: New Tile Flooring – \$27,392



Community Development Block Grant

CDBG provides funds to help up to 30 qualifying families per school year with weekly before and after school care by providing a 50% tuition discount

FY 25-26 - \$15,595 (22 families)
FY 24-25 - \$13,920 (25 families)
FY 23-24 - \$12,673 (25 families)
FY 22-23 - \$12,185 (24 families)
FY 21-22 - \$12,743 (32 families)



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The Community Need for Childcare

According to Neilsburg Research in 2025, there are close to 30,000 children ages 3-14 in Cape Coral.

Youth Center Programs

1. After School Programs

While schools offer after school programs for students, they often cannot accommodate all children in need of care.

2. Day Camps

The Youth Center offers day camps and school's out days for children in grades K-8 when school is out for summer, winter, and spring breaks, and select school holidays.

3. Daycare and Preschool Programs

Daycare and VPK Wrap Around/VPK Only.

4. Drop-in and Family Events

Affordable/Free events for kids and families all year.

5. Safety

Safe place for children to go while not in school, DCF Regulated.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Ensures a safe, healthy environment and compliance with state regulations.

1. Quarterly inspections to verify that facilities meet standards for child safety, proper supervision, staff training, and sanitation
 - a) Conducted to prevent negligence, abuse or dangerous conditions.
2. Require all staff to complete 40 hours of childcare related training, with 10 hours annually after initial training
3. Requires staff to be CPR/First Aid/AED Certified
4. DCF License (#C20LE0066)
5. Four FTEs hold active Director's Credentials

Coral Cuties Childcare and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

1. Coral Cuties Daycare; Ages 3-4

The Coral Cuties Childcare program offers a safe and fun place for children to learn, grow and prepare themselves for VPK. Children will enjoy using their imagination through storytelling, arts and crafts, and learning their shapes, colors, numbers and more.

2. VPK (Wrap Around) or VPK ONLY; ages 4-5

VPK is specially designed to prepare children for Kindergarten. Children will be able to work on their literary and handwriting skills. They also participate in a variety of STEM activities such as creating lava lamps, creating balloon powered Lego cars, constructing buildings out of toothpicks and marshmallows, counting with Legos and more.

3. Food Program

Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack served and included in the cost of tuition. Foods are required to meet nutritional value standards. We receive reimbursement for qualifying items.



Affordable Before and After School Programs

Youth Center Sunrisers

Open to students at Mid Cape Global Academy due to their full enrollment. This Youth Center Sunrisers program allows children to engage in exciting activities from the large playground to group 4 square tournaments, as well as tabletop games and activities. This program is designed to provide assistance to families whose children attend Mid Cape Global Academy Charter School and are needing childcare assistance before school start time.

Youth Center Afterschool

Open to all students. This after school program allows for children to engage in exciting outdoor activities from the large playground to group kickball tournaments. Also offers creative arts and crafts to take home, and homework assistance from counselors as needed.



Eagle Skate Park

Supervised attendees can enjoy skateboarding, scooters, roller blading, and BMX year round.

1. Public Admission
2. After School Program
3. Summer Camp
4. Spring & Winter Break Camps
5. Lessons
6. Competitions/Events



Youth Center Camps

1. Summer Camp – Ages 3-14

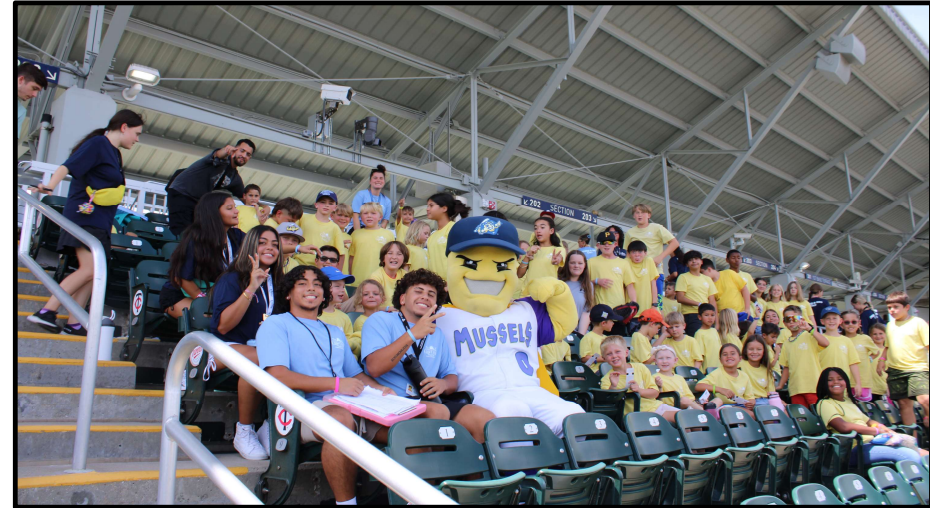
Camp runs from 6:30am - 6:00pm. Indoor/Outdoor activities, field trips, group games, dress-up days, guest speakers, science experiments, competitions and more! This upcoming summer we have over 2,000 spots for summer camp.

2. Free Breakfast and Lunch

Summer Break Spot through the Lee County School District. In FY25, we were able to serve more than 30,000 meals throughout our four summer camp locations.

3. Schools Out Days

Spring Break, Winter Break and non-major holidays.



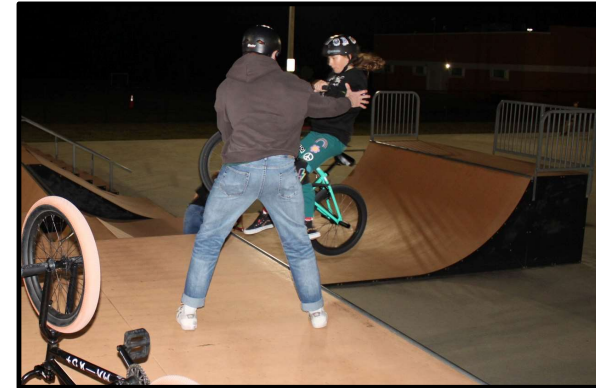
Classes, Clubs & Activities

Current Programs provided by experienced Youth Center staff and instructors from community.

1. Art Club to build artistic minds
2. Basketball training to assist with clubs and teams
3. Tutoring
4. Ballet
5. Tap
6. Jazz
7. Hip - Hop
8. Skateboarding, scooter and BMX lessons at the Eagle Skate Park

Previous classes offered to meet the ever-changing interests of children.

1. Coding Club
2. Rocket Club
3. Sewing Club
4. Cooking Classes
5. Archery
6. Yoga
7. Variety of others



Enjoy Family and Drop-off Events Year Round!



Parks and Recreation Month (July) Annual Block Party

Free Admission





Community Collaborations

Thank you!

