

A4TD's Nugget of Knowledge

April 20, 2020

Greetings from A4TD . . .

Hello again from A4TD. Today we are sending you our second ***Nugget of Knowledge***, designed for you, our program participant, to provide you with learning, comfort and connection. As we said last time, even though your host site training experience is currently suspended, you are still part of the SCSEP program and we remain here for you. We are committed to staying in touch, and hope that you continue to enjoy these Nuggets. Just a reminder, how you engage with this material is up to you and is optional. We hope, however, that you will find it to be valuable to you.

Remember, if you have any questions you want to ask us, simply reply to this email and we will do our best to get an answer back to you.

Read on and enjoy.

Did you Know . . .

Are you interested in learning how to plant a “victory garden”? Or have you ever been curious about beekeeping? While you are at home, check out the **free** offerings of the Penn State Extension Service— **but you must sign up by April 30th**.

<https://extension.psu.edu/victory-garden-reinvented-webinar-series>

In addition, A4TD has put together a list of helpful resources for you. Click on this link to find resources for your basic needs, to keep your mind active and to continue your job search and job skills development.

<https://a4td.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Free-Online-Resources-for-SCSEP-Participants.pdf>

A Training Tidbit . . .

You bring many skills to a job. Some skills - like the ability to prepare food safely, the ability to operate a cash register, and knowledge of effective customer service techniques – are known as “occupational skills”. These are skills specific to a particular type of work.

Other skills - like how well you communicate or get along with others – are known as “soft skills”. These types of skills will help you be successful in any work environment.

Here are some of the soft skills employers look for in their workers and their applicants.

- **Communication** - how well you convey your thoughts verbally and in writing
- **Interpersonal** – how well you get along with others
- **Positive Attitude** – no one wants to work with a negative co-worker
- **Teamwork** – how well you work with and support others
- **Analytical** – how well you can assess a situation to identify problems and solutions
- **Technical** – your ability with computers and technology

Are you strong in any of these? You may have these abilities but have never given it much thought. Therefore, **I invite you to take some time to think of examples of how well you have used these soft skills. Write them down.** Prepare now so you will be ready to promote yourself to any potential employer!

A Little Bit about SCSEP . . .

We’re very glad to have you as a participant in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (also known as “SCSEP”). A4TD as an organization administers this transitional training program through a grant awarded to us by the Department of Labor. Currently we operate this program in Maine, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and serve almost 800 individuals.

Fun Fact . . .

The leaning tower of Paris? Did you know that while the Eiffel Tower in Paris was built to sway slightly in the wind, the sun has an even greater effect on the Tower? As the sun-facing side of the tower heats up, thermal expansion causes the top of the Tower to lean as much as 7 inches away from the sun.

Here is a little quiz for you:

“How many tons of paint are applied to the Eiffel Tower every seven years?”

Stay tuned for the answer next time. (Or, feel free to respond back with the answer and you will get a shout out in the next Nugget!)

In case you need a break . . .

Take a moment to relax and enjoy this webcam view of the giant pandas at the National Zoo in Washington, DC:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/panda-cam>

If you prefer elephants, you can watch them as well:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/elephants>

And last but not least, there are always the penguins:

<https://www.earthcam.com/usa/idaho/idahofalls/?cam=penguin>

A Final Thought . . .

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, Whispering 'it will be happier'...”
~ Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ask A4TD . . .

Just a reminder that if you have a comment or a question for A4TD, please “reply” to this message and enter your thoughts in the message box.

Here’s one question that a number of you asked last week. “Should I file for unemployment”? The answer is NO. You are still in the SCSEP program and receiving wages.

Until next time, may good health, safety and hope be your constant companions in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

All of us here at A4TD