



## PCJFS Youth Program... Archaeologists for the summer

By Gary Wilson

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Right now some Perry County youth are serving as archaeologists for the summer in historic Somerset--all a part of the Perry County Job and Family Services WIA Summer Youth Program. Perry JFS has taken full ownership of its WIA Youth Program, which consists of both a year-round and a summer component, by taking in-house responsibility for all aspects of the program. The WIA Summer Youth Program provides eligible youth with academic and/or occupational skills training in conjunction with a stipend provided for job skills training in a field directly related to the individual student's career goals. The hope of Perry JFS in sponsoring the WIA Youth Program and specifically the summer component is to increase Perry County students' interest in their studies and in preparing for their future. This year Perry JFS has 81 youth participating in the Summer Youth Program at 9 job sites and 1 educational site throughout Perry County and 2 job sites in Hocking County. Each program is designed around the needs within Perry County and the needs of the individual student's career plan. One of these Summer Youth employment opportunities is an Archeological Dig at the Miller and Fink Tavern sites through a partnership with Somerset Mayor, Tom Johnson. This program hosts eight Summer Youth participants representing all four Perry County High Schools. Participants at the Archeological Dig will be helping Somerset discover more of its history and heritage through a study of archeology and the proper way to dig for historical items. The participants will be given opportunities to understand the importance of preserving and learning from history. Mayor Johnson said, "These are called archaeological 'test digs'--everything has to be scientifically measured--for example, how much cubic dirt was removed, and how many artifacts were found." Somerset received a \$4,000 grant from the Ohio Humanities Council to help discover Perry County's pioneer past--in this case a basement area from a structure dated anywhere from 1807 to 1820." If you have a youth who would be interested in becoming a part of the WIA Youth Program, please check out our website, [www.perryjfs.org](http://www.perryjfs.org), for more information and the requirements to become a WIA Youth. You may also call Dorothy Barlow at 740-342-3551 ext 688 to sign up or for more information. If you are interested in becoming a WIA Youth host site, please contact Jon Locke at 740-342-3551 ext 615.