

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times    Like most communities this time of year, the City of Liberal is gearing up for an exciting and busy summer season.

To help with the growing numbers during summer, the city opens employment opportunities for local youth to learn on-the-job skills training in areas such as customer service, maintenance and job responsibility.

The purpose of the city's summer youth employment program, according to human resources director Sheena Schmutz, is to provide those opportunities in structured work areas.

This helps young people learn about not only job skills but also local governments while earning money. Schmutz said the city provides jobs in many of its departments and areas of work such as mowing, lifeguarding and planting flowers, as well as opportunities at City Hall itself. Helping with this year's recruiting effort, Schmutz said the city has secured funding from a local donation in the amount of \$82,000, and she said she hopes for about 100 kids to employed this summer through the employment program. "We're not full yet," she said at Tuesday's city commission meeting. "We've had lots of kids come in and apply, especially for Adventure Bay, but we always still need more people. If there's any kids out there looking for a job, they can stop by City Hall, talk to me and fill out an application."

Schmutz said the city can provide jobs for youth age 15 to 20 through the program.

"There are certain age restrictions in the job when you're 15, 16 and 17, but we have jobs to accommodate them," she said. "It's about giving them an experience at the city."

Those interested in seasonal employment with the City of Liberal can stop by City Hall at 324 N. Kansas Ave. to complete an application. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We hope this opportunity will be fun and provide a work experience for our seasonal employees," Schmutz said.