



# These places around the world offer beautiful hues

DO IT!, 1B

# THE ITHACA JOURNAL

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# THERE'S SO MUCH TO LOVE ABOUT THE NY STATE FAIR

David Robinson New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

For most New Yorkers, August brings plenty of bittersweet reminders that summer will soon yield to fall. • All manner of foods, drinks and candles are suddenly spiced with pumpkin flavorings and aromas. Sleepy college towns come alive as students flock to campuses. Days shorten and the night air gets crisp. • But for some of us lucky enough to live near Syracuse, this month of seasonal transition has only one true end-of-summer ritual: The Great New York State Fair.

Having grown up a 10-minute drive from the sprawling 375-acre fairgrounds, I consider myself an unofficial ambassador of the fair's greatness (Did you know the nation's first state fair was held in Syracuse 184 years ago?!).

I've even sung praises of the fair to colleagues while working in Westchester County. My sales pitch convinced some to make the trek upstate while others entrenched in their downstate-of-mind still view it as a far-off oddity (For those interested in going, Amtrak offers a direct train to

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What to know before you go, parking and transit tips, and stay informed with the new alert system.  
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Free fare at the fair.  
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USA TODAY Network journalist David Robinson and his family at The Great New York State Fair in 2024. Robinson lives in the Syracuse area with his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Gavin. PROVIDED BY DAVID ROBINSON

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ILLUSTRATION BY MICK HANGLAND-SKILL/USA TODAY NETWORK; AND GETTY IMAGES

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

# How funding will help Southern Tier counties

Jeff Murray  
Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin | USA TODAY NETWORK

Three Southern Tier counties are among localities across New York state that will benefit from additional youth employment program funds announced Aug. 20 by Gov. Kathy Hochul. Hochul announced \$40.6 million has been awarded for the Youth Employment Program, which aims to help reduce community gun violence by providing year-round employment and training opportunities to at-risk youth in parts of the state outside of New York City who are most impacted by gun violence. Of the total, Broome, Chemung and Tompkins counties will split about \$2.1 million to help fund local programs.

Broome County will be awarded more than \$1.29 million, while Chemung County's share is about \$467,000, and Tompkins County will receive more than \$354,000.

"The Youth Employment Program is a key part of our comprehensive approach to drive down gun violence in communities across New York state, while providing at-risk youth with the year-round job and training opportunities they need and deserve to thrive in the workforce and build successful futures," Hochul said in a news release.

**"The Youth Employment Program is a key part of our comprehensive approach to drive down gun violence in communities across New York state, while providing at-risk youth with the year-round job and training opportunities ..."**

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul

The money is expected to provide paid work and training opportunities for at least 2,500 low-income youth across these areas of the state from September 2025 to June 2026.

From September 2024 to June 2025, more than 4,000 youth statewide participated in the first full year of the Youth Employment Program, working in school districts, libraries, restaurants, camps and childcare programs, and various community organizations.

Youth Employment Program providers are encouraged to collaborate with local law enforcement and other local organizations serving at-risk youth.

# Ukrainian marine's journey highlights hidden toll of war

Michael Collins and Stephen J. Beard  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Yuri Saiko heard the whistling sound from his hospital bed and took cover under his blanket. A split second later, the window in his room exploded, spraying glass in every direction. An air bomb had hit the hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, where the young marine was recovering from surgery to amputate his left leg. Saiko and his comrades came under fire on March 10, 2022, after delivering baby formula, food, clothing and other supplies to three patients who had

given birth in a hospital bunker. Russian soldiers pounded them with artillery fire as they headed back to their positions near the Illich Iron and Steel Works plant. Back at the plant, Saiko waited until the shelling stopped, then went to check the condition of their vehicle. Another shell landed near him and exploded. He fell to the ground as shrapnel tore through his chest, nose and the back of his head. His left leg, almost ripped from his body, was held in place only by thin tissue. Now, in the hospital, he was under attack again. Beneath the covers, Saiko removed the wires and tubes

that connected him to medical equipment. He took off his clothes, grabbed his crutches and, fueled by adrenaline, scurried down a corridor. There, he fainted. A nurse found him, woke him up and moved him to the hospital basement, where they stayed for the night. The next day, they would be evacuated. But the danger was far from over. The human sacrifice inflicted by Ukraine's three-year-old war with Russia can be measured in many ways. One of the least-noticed barometers is the

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