

National Lead Convention

The 1st National LEAD Convention was successfully conducted on July 31st 2021 (Saturday). The convention was a four-hour virtual meet divided into three main-halls and eleven breakout sessions. The convention received an overwhelming registration over 620 LEADS across USA. The entire session was live streamed on Facebook & YouTube where Lead parents and the public were able to join as well.

The Central Jersey Sewa Team had taken significant responsibilities in the planning & executing the 1st ever National Lead Convention. The team was involved in discussion topic finalization, panelist coordination, audio and visual collaboration, preparation of LEAD presentations, mentoring & managing breakout sessions, and many other logistics. Our Lead team also produced an excellent animated chapter video that gave a high-level overview of all the projects & activities done by our chapter. All attendees greatly applauded the creativity & efforts put in making this beautiful video. Kudos to Hyndava Kakuru, Srinitya Tadisina, Anvitha Naikoti, Sanketh Kamath, Astha Rajpal, Muskan Seksaria, Saatvik Kambhampati & the parents who supported this effort.



Sewa Meals

Chesterfield Sewa Team delivered about 150 meals to the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trenton. The meals consisted of pasta, salad, and a cookie. These meals were served to the needy in Trenton/Burlington/Camden communities. Thanks to the Sewa families who sponsored this month's meals.



Chapter Highlights

- ❖ National Lead Convention
- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ KKWC Garden
- ❖ KKWC Summer Camp
- ❖ Summer Tutoring
- ❖ Clean Ups & Reforestation
- ❖ Gardening Activities

Center Highlights

- ❖ Funder Raiser – Young Kids
- ❖ Vaccination Help
- ❖ Autism Awareness Carnival
- ❖ STEM Science and Algebra Summer Camps

Volunteer(s) Spotlight



Ritesh Maheshwari

Ritesh ji is the Edison center coordinator and has been with Sewa since 2019. He was involved in planning and execution of many projects like Mission Mask, Kiddie Keep Well Camp, Volunteering Radha Gopinath Temple, Neshaminy State Park tree planting and Sewa Meal to Ozanam Shelter among others. Ritesh ji believes it is our duty to give back to our community. He spends countless hours to explore new volunteering activities for our leads. Ritesh ji likes to spend time with his family, go on hikes, and play tennis. He resides in Woodbridge, NJ with wife Shweta ji, and his children, Lead Raashi and Prakhar. He looks forward to continuing work with Sewa International and serving the community.

Monroe leads made 2 meals one in celebration of 4th of July sponsored by Advait and Vedant Nair. the second meal was sponsored on July 18th in marking the birthday of our parent volunteer, Sangeetha Ji. The meals consisted of: Veggie Poha, Quesadillas, a pasta bean salad, cookies, and 6 kid's meals.



Somerset leads continued their enthusiastic meal preparations for the homeless and distributed them at United Methodist church in New Brunswick. Sewa families helped by sponsoring these 2 meals which consisted of cold sandwiches, pasta, vermicelli, zucchini bread, corn muffins and grilled cheese sandwiches / cookies for kids.



Kiddie Keep Well Summer Camp (KKWC)

Sewa leads across Central Jersey Chapter volunteered at KKWC Summer Camp in Roosevelt Park, Edison (Middlesex County). The project started on June 23 and will continue through the summer. Our leads across the Central Jersey chapter have contributed **1000** hours by end of July and looking for them to reach the 2000 hours record towards the end of summer 2021. Our Leads help serve meals to the participating campers, clean the dishes, wipe tables, and mop the floors.



Kiddie Keep Well Garden

Our Leads have been taking care of the garden at KKWC campsite. They have been putting a lot of hard work into the garden activity. They started off with repainting & fixing the raised bed frames, filled them with compost & soil, planted lots of vegetable plants. And now they are taking turns caring for them by keeping them weed-free & taking care of the crops. Also LEADs take turns and visit the garden twice a day to water them in this hot weather.



Summer Tutoring

Following the demand and popularity of summer tutoring sessions from 2020, leads initiated the 2021 summer tutoring sessions in July and have had an overwhelming registration. Leads have been taking tutoring sessions twice a week, preparing lesson plans tailored to their assigned kid and reporting progress to the parents on a weekly basis. About 90 tutors are conducting sessions.

Community Clean Ups & Reforestation

Sewa Leads and parents from all the centers have worked on multiple cleanup and reforestation projects.

Kresson Trails Cleanup - Our Cherry Hill leads, and parent volunteers helped clear the Kresson Trails by removing invasive plants, branches, and bushes from the pathways.



Neshaminy Park – Our Cherry Hill leads visited the park to check upon the new saplings planted in the month of May and June this year and cleared the weeds around the plants, adding mulch to ensure healthy growth of these saplings.



Gardening Activities
Marlboro Garden

Every Saturday, the Marlboro Community Garden gets a visit from the Monroe Sewa Leads, who are prepared to do arduous work in the garden under the guidance of master gardeners Ellen and Bob. Despite the blistering heat, leads readily tend to the garden, performing tasks like planting, composting, and removing.



West Windsor Arts Council Garden

The West Windsor Arts Council Garden is an ongoing project where Monroe leads take care of the garden. Leads go every Sunday to the garden and do various tasks to keep the garden clean, including removing weeds, raking flowerbeds, and removing invasive plants. Leads also trim trees and rake leaves in order to keep the garden neat and in good condition.



Watershed Institute Summer Fairy Festival

This festival was created for younger children to play around a park and enjoy several entertaining activities, such as games, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and even an obstacle course! The entire festival kept up a magical theme, featuring ideas such as fairies, butterflies, and mermaids. Sewa leads volunteered at a game station and enjoyed watching the kids have a great day!



Somerset Home Garden

Somerset LEAD Suhas Kavuri built a raised bed garden for growing his own vegetables and use the produce for the meals prepared for the homeless. It was a long journey of building raised bed frames, filling them with compost, planting seedlings, protecting them, de-weeding regularly and watering them twice a day! Finally, when it was time to harvest the bounty was plenty of zucchinis & squash which were used in making delicious Zucchini bread & salads. This homegrown zucchini bread became a star dish in the Sewa meals served at United Methodist Church.



Farmers Market

Our Edison and Somerset LEADs have volunteered at Farmer's Market, Metuchen, NJ - a new initiative by Sewa International. This Metuchen Farmer's market is managed by a non-profit along with Metuchen Chambers of Commerce. Sewa Leads volunteered in setting up tents, arranging tables & set up boards at the beginning of the day. And later help with the clean-up & wind down. Our leads also keep track of the foot traffic at the market so that MFM can present the details while applying for grants.



STEM Science and Algebra Summer Camps

Four Sewa Cherry Hill LEADs took the extra step to start their own focused summer camps. They created their own flyers, designed the curriculum, lesson plans and taught students online. The funds raised will be fully donated to "SAC" (Sponsor a Child) and "SHE" (Sanitation, Hygiene and Empowerment for Girls) programs.



Contact for more information about the program:
Helpline Number: 702.900.SEWA | Twitter: @JerseySewa | Email: sewa.cherryhill@gmail.com

STEM Science Camp

Register Here
<https://sewausa.org/event>

SEWA INTERNATIONAL

Sessions: July 19 - August 6, 1PM - 2PM EST, Monday - Friday

Contains Physics, Biology, and Chemistry

Recommended for middle school students (Grades 5 - 8)

Cost: \$40 for 15 sessions

All Donations go to support various programs run by Sewa International to benefit local communities.

Central NJ Chapter



Algebra Camp

Sewa Cherry Hill

sewa USA INTERNATIONAL TOGETHER WE SERVE BETTER

Sessions: July 12 - July 30; 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST; Monday - Friday

Covers Algebra I and an Intro to Algebra II

Recommended for grades 6-9

Cost: \$40 for 15 sessions

Register Here: <https://sewausa.org/event-4398428>

Deadline for Registration: Sunday, July 11th

All revenue goes towards "Sponsor A Child Program" to support underprivileged kids and SHE (Sanitation, Hygiene and Empowerment for Girl Child).

Contacts for further information regarding the camp:
Helpline Number: 702.900.SEWA
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JerseySewa>
Email: sewa.cherryhill@gmail.com

Autism Awareness Carnival

Sewa volunteers were able to join hands with AttachAvi Autism Foundation in making this Summer Splash Carnival a huge success. This was designed towards raising awareness for children with autism. It was a free event with lots of fun activities, water slides, music, and food. This event taught our leads how to help manage the whole event, including handling children when they played on water slides, other fun activities, serving food/snacks safely. The fair and efforts of Sewa leads have been acknowledged and telecasted in NJ13 news : https://fb.watch/70iUYHQa_T/



Cherry Hill leads and parent volunteers also assisted with the carnival.



Fundraiser - Young kids from Chesterfield

Motivated by the Sewa Leads twenty chesterfield kids between the ages of 5-12 years host a garage sale and lemonade stand. They sold a variety of stuff at the garage sale - soft toys, story books, workbooks, bags, and Lemonade. As a team, they raised \$210 and donated towards Sewa Meal. It's truly touching & inspiring to see small kids work hard to help others. Sewa family blesses these kids for their sense of responsibility and humble act.



Reusable Bag Distribution

Chesterfield Sewa Team initiated & lead the Reusable bag project in partnership with Township, Green Team & Environment Commission. The purpose of the project was to encourage the residents to reduce the single-use plastics by using the reusable shopping bags. The Sewa team not only designed the bags but also worked on getting the sponsorships. Once the bags were ready, the team took care of stuffing the bags with sponsor flyers & distributed them to 2100 homes in Chesterfield.



Vaccination Help

On July 24, Chesterfield township organized a vaccination camp at the Chesterfield Elementary School, in partnership with Sewa Central New Jersey and Burlington County. Sewa not only helped on the day of the clinic but was also involved in planning this clinic along with Chesterfield Township & Burlington County officials. Sewa volunteers also helped in advertising by placing a flyer for this vaccination clinic into the reusable bags which were distributed all throughout Chesterfield. This clinic offered Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. At this clinic, Sewa LEADs helped with welcoming and directing the patients to the next available vaccination station, some leads directed the patients to the observation area where the patients had to sit right after they received the vaccine. Sewa Leads & volunteers helped in a smooth execution of this Vaccination camp.



Center Picnics

Sewa leads and families organized mini center-wise picnics in local parks following the CDC guidelines. This was an opportunity for leads and families to get to know each other and socialize. Leads wish to do more of such meet and greet events hopefully across all the centers upon ease of COVID situation.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Kiddie Keep well Summer Camp (KKWC)
- ❖ Summer Tutoring Sessions
- ❖ Butterfly Festival
- ❖ Neshaminy State Park
- ❖ Trail maintenance
- ❖ Tomato Harvesting
- ❖ Metuchen Farmers Market

Newsletter Team

- ❖ Rohan Sharma
- ❖ Siri Koppiseti
- ❖ Sreeya Kavuri
- ❖ Vaman Rajagopal
- ❖ Praveen Prabaharan
- ❖ Suhas Murthy
- ❖ Ashish Manavarthe
- ❖ Suraj Patel
- ❖ Srinitya Tadisina
- ❖ Siddarth Tadi
- ❖ Sanya Rana

Communication Channels

Please visit our chapter website and follow-on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

Web: <https://Sewausa.org/central-jersey-chapter>

Twitter: @JerseySewa

FB: @JerseySewa or Sewa Central Jersey

Instagram: centraljerseysewa

Email: CentralJersey.Sewa@gmail.com

Helpline: 702. 900.SEWA