

## **Youth Enrichment Services Announces Outdoor Adventure Summer 2007 Program for Boston Area Kids**

### ***Hiking, Biking, Overnight Adventure Camping Programs Run June Through August***

**BOSTON – June 11, 2007** – Youth Enrichment Services (YES), a non-profit that offers low- and moderate-income Boston area kids challenging outdoor and practical learning activities, today announced its summer schedule of outdoor adventure activities.

#### **Outdoor Adventure**

Outdoor Adventure introduces the great outdoors to urban kids. YES hiking and biking day trips for ages 9 to 16 run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from June 26 through August 23. The 9am to 3pm day trip entails hiking and biking in small groups with guides. YES provides the bikes and certified instructors. Trips leave from YES and go to Maudsley State Park in Newburyport, Wompatuck State Park in Hingham and Blue Hill Reservation just outside of Boston. Space is limited and participants must call and pay in advance. The cost is \$15 per day.

On weekends, youth ages 12-17 can go camping in the Berkshires at YES's facility in Monterey, MA. The trips begin the weekend of July 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> and end the weekend of August 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$65 per person. The friendly YES staff challenge the campers with canoeing, mountain biking, eco-explorations and tent camping. Trips leave from YES at 6pm Friday and return 5pm Sunday.

#### **Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders**

This program is for young women ages 10-12 and 13-16 and is designed to help them become healthier, develop leadership abilities and become more confident and physically fit by exposing them to new kinds of outdoor recreation.

Small group day trips are held for each age group and are led by strong women who are YES mentors and have experience with the outdoors. Through a recent grant from the Boston Foundation, YES has been able to expand this program's hours into the early evening. The girls only program will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning on July 9 and running through August 29. The cost is \$15 per week; scholarships are available for the program.

#### **Family Day Out**

YES will be hosting two "Family Day Out" events July 14<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> in Canton, MA, as well as a day trip to the Danversport Yacht Club on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Through a special collaboration with the YMCA, YES will utilize the Ponkapoag Outdoor Center located in Canton. Parents are invited to hike with their kids, enjoy an old fashion potato sack race, take a dip in a refreshing pool and much more. While there, participants will enjoy a traditional barbecue grill lunch. The cost is \$20 per family.

“Youth Enrichment Services has designed these programs to enable kids to experience the outdoors in a safe and exciting way while challenging themselves physically,” said Mary Williams, president of YES. “Because space is limited, we encourage families to sign up as soon as possible.”

### **Agency Trips**

YES also invites non-profits that work with youth to partner with it for summer programs. YES can provide agencies with all the logistics needed to have a great outdoor experience whether it’s mountain biking, hiking or overnight camping.

Interested families or agencies may obtain more information from the website at [www.yeskids.org](http://www.yeskids.org) or by calling 617-267-5877, x17.

### **About Youth Enrichment Services ([www.yeskids.org](http://www.yeskids.org))**

Since its founding in 1968, Youth Enrichment Services (YES) has helped more than 100,000 low- and moderate-income Boston area youth build self-esteem and foster life-long respect for themselves, others and the environment through participation in outdoor and practical learning activities. Research shows that YES kids who remain committed to the program over time -- serving as junior counselors and volunteers -- graduate high school, attend college and obtain jobs at a higher rate than their peers. YES also helps local youth agencies and schools offer challenging programs to reward and motivate their members/students. YES is unique in taking kids out of their familiar urban environment and challenging them with both summer and winter outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking and biking. YES is a 501(c)3 educational institution and is registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Public Charities.

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**For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact:**

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