

Read about YES's fall programs, events, and more! [Click here](#)



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## Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Fall 2015 Newsletter

### From the Executive Director

Dear Youth Enrichment Services,

Fall is an exciting season at YES. Last month, we opened the doors for our YES Academy programs and began registration for Operation SnowSports.

This school year, we look forward to inspiring our young people through the outdoors and encouraging them to reach their full potential. One of YES's top metrics of success continues to be the graduation rate of high school seniors enrolled in the YES Academy. We strive to make this year the sixth one in a row that 100% of our seniors graduate and enroll in college.

Preparations for the 2015-16 Operation SnowSports season are well underway! It is open to youth ages 7-18 and applications are currently being accepted. Spots are filling up quickly! Click [here](#) to register and for more information about Operation SnowSports, Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction (YETTI), and Cross Country Skiing.

If you're interested in checking out affordable gear for your family this winter, be sure to stop by the YES Annual Ski & Snowboard Sale on Sunday, November 8 from 12-4pm. Sale will be held at YES, located at 412 Massachusetts Avenue in Boston.

I would also like to personally invite you to join us for YES's 2015 Annual Celebration on Monday, December 7. We are excited to be holding the event once again at the EMC Club in Fenway Park. Click [here](#) to RSVP online.



*Executive Director,  
Bryan Van Dorpe*

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Bryan Van Dorpe

Bryan Van Dorpe  
Executive Director



## Upcoming Events

YES Ski Sale, BEWI Ski & Snowboard Expo, YES Annual Celebration, and more!

Click [here](#) to see all the upcoming events on the YES homepage.

## Volunteer & Intern Opportunities

Inspired by our YES youth?  
Join us as a volunteer or intern!

[Learn more](#) about volunteer opportunities.

[Learn more](#) about internship opportunities.

## YES in the News

17 year-old Boston resident and YES teen, Chris C., had his personal essay on advocacy for LGBTQ rights recently published in the Boston Globe.

Read the full article [here](#).

## Join the 2016 YES Marathon Team!

***"I ran the Boston Marathon for YES because I believe that sports help youth form character and learn positive life lessons that they can't get in the classroom." - Jaime Lunny, 2015 Team YES Marathoner***

YES received four (4) bib numbers for the 2016 Boston Marathon through the John Hancock Non-Profit Marathon program. We are currently accepting runner applications. Two bib numbers are still open! **Application deadline has been extended until Friday, November 13.**

Learn more about what our team offers, how to apply, and most importantly, how you can make a difference in the lives of YES youth. Make 2016 the year you run the Boston Marathon!

**[APPLY NOW!](#)**



Jaime Lunny, 2015  
Team YES Marathon  
runner.

# YES Youth Rock Climb with World Champion, Sasha DiGiulian

YES was thrilled to begin its fall session of our City Ascent youth rock climbing program with a special clinic with Sasha DiGiulian, a world champion female rock climber. The clinic took place on Saturday, September 26 at Central Rock Gym in Watertown. Sasha spent quality time with the youth, sharing her story and personal tips for success on the climbing wall.

View photos from the day on the YES [Facebook](#) page.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE CLIMBING CLINIC WITH SASHA](#)



Sasha DiGiulian (L) with YES youth, Ana.



## YES Youth Spotlight: Destiny's Story

***"YES is a special safe haven, where I feel like I can be myself and make new friends." -Destiny, YES teen***

13-year-old Destiny fell in love with the mountains during her first Operation SnowSports season with YES in 2010. Little did she know that she would quickly develop into a confident snowboarder and role model to younger youth who are hitting the slopes alongside her.

Destiny lives in Dorchester with her mother and loves to come to YES. She has participated in the Operation SnowSports and Outdoor Adventure programs since she joined YES at 8 years old. Her favorite activities are staying overnight at Swann Lodge and hiking with YES at Umpachene Falls.



Destiny with her mother at the 2014 YES Annual Celebration at Fenway's EMC Club.

Destiny's mother, Angela, is thrilled by the positive impact that YES is making on Destiny's life. "Destiny has grown significantly from her involvement at YES," says Angela. "She has increased her self-confidence and learned the importance of teamwork. YES is a great resource for children that would not normally be exposed to major outdoor activities "

Angela spoke about the positive changes she has observed in her daughter at YES's 2014 Annual Celebration. Please consider joining YES at its 2015 Annual Celebration on December 7th and hear stories from other youth whose lives are being transformed by YES.



## Network, Socialize, and Support YES Youth!

Have you been looking for a way to meet new friends while giving back and having fun? Look no further because the YES Young Donors Committee is recruiting for new members!

The Young Donors Committee is a group of young professionals dedicated to empowering urban youth in Boston through outdoor and enrichment programming. Founded in 2012, the committee is chaired YES Trustee and long-time volunteer, Jennifer Maitland. Members consist of motivated individuals in their 20s, 30s, and 40s who fundraise, promote, and raise awareness for YES's mission. In turn, the committee provides members with





the opportunity to network, give back - and have fun!

The committee recently organized its first event of the year - a sold out Harpoon Tasting! Event photos are now up on [Facebook](#). Other upcoming events hosted by the Young Donors Committee include YES Trivia Night on Thursday, January 28; Polar Plunge in March 2016; and YES Harbor Cruise in June 2016.

YES Young Donors  
Committee members  
at the recent Harpoon  
Tasting fundraiser.

Interested in joining the YES Young Donors Committee?

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION! >>](#)



## News from the YES Academy

YES will be helping its high school students reach their full potential on and off the slopes with support from the YES Academy this school year. These programs focus on helping youth develop leadership skills, train for the workplace, and prepare for college.

YES kicked off the 2015-16 school year with several new offerings within the YES Academy:

- **College Prep Program:** YES is piloting a new college preparation program especially developed for high school freshmen. (This is in addition to our already existing College Prep curriculum for high school juniors and seniors.) Students enroll in the program as ninth graders and commit to attend four years throughout high school. Each year of the program will be tailored to help students get the most out of high school as they prepare for college. In 9th grade, the program offers youth academic support and tutoring, as well as exploratory tours of local colleges. "Supporting youth from the beginning of 9th grade ensures that they have adequate time to access the people and resources which will help them excel academically and socially, leading them to college success," says Allison Zacarias, YES's College Prep Program Fellow.
- **Career Exploration:** In this program, high school students participate in weekly skill-building and educational workshops where they learn and practice critical technical competencies (e.g. computer skills, resume/cover letter writing) and job readiness skills (e.g. time management, goal setting). Corporate visits and job shadows educate youth about an array of career opportunities. YES has a growing partnership with Boston Public Schools where the program is delivered on-site in the classroom. After completion of the Career Exploration program, students get the opportunity to intern at the YES office for 6 weeks under the supervision of YES staff.
- **Junior Volunteer Program:** YES recently expanded its Junior Volunteer Program to include a 6-week Outdoor Leadership Intensive. This initiative is designed to provide students with no prior experience in leadership programs and/or no access to leadership programs with an introduction to community awareness and youth leadership fundamentals.



YES teens Joanna, Diana, and Wendy, toured Quinnipiac University last spring with the College Prep program.

Visit the [YES website](#) to learn more about the YES Academy programs.



## YES Welcomes New Program Staff

*Lauren Penney*

### *Program Coordinator*

Lauren graduated from UMass Amherst in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Public Health. Throughout college, Lauren was an active member of the Ski and Snowboard Club. Lauren says, "I chose to work at YES because it gives me the opportunity to share my love for the outdoors and give others the opportunity to participate in a sport or activity that they may have never imagined they could do."



Lauren Penney, YES  
Program Coordinator

### *Cassie Walke*

#### *Program Coordinator*

Cassie graduated from Green Mountain College with a bachelor's degree in Adventure Education. During college, Cassie discovered her love of the outdoors. After graduating in 2014, Cassie completed an Americorps service year at the Boys & Girls Club in Woburn, MA. Cassie is currently doing a second service year at YES as a Program Coordinator through Americorps' *Coaches Across America* program. Cassie says, "I believe that outdoor recreation opportunities have the power to change children's lives for the better. I am excited to be a part of that at YES!"



Cassie Walke, YES Program  
Coordinator



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