

News from Youth Enrichment Services

Fall 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thurs, Nov 13 -
Sun, Nov 17
BEWI Ski &**

Snowboard Expo

Join YES at the BEWI Ski & Snowboard Expo. The BEWI Ski & Snowboard Expo will be at the Seaport World Trade Center (200 Seaport Blvd. Boston MA). Click [here](#) for hours & more information. We are honored to be the only nonprofit at the event, thanks to the generosity of BEWI President, [Bernie Weichsel](#).

**Sat, Nov 21
12 - 4 PM**

Annual YES Ski Equipment Sale

Stop by YES (412 Mass Ave) to check out the sale! New and gently used skis, snowboards, and equipment. Youth and adult sizes available. 100% of the proceeds benefit YES.

**Wed, Dec 3
7 - 8:30 PM**

Harpoon Beer Tasting

The YES Young Donors Committee will be holding a Beer Tasting event from 7 - 8:30 pm at Harpoon.

Mon, Dec 8

Letter from YES Executive Director Bryan Van Dorpe

Dear Youth Enrichment Services,

I hope your fall is starting off well. Here at YES, our school-year programs are in full swing! It's great to welcome back returning youth to YES and introduce new students to all that YES has to offer.

I am thrilled to share with you exciting changes that are happening in our Career Exploration, College Preparation, Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders (GOAL) and Junior Volunteer programs. From offering Career Exploration at Charlestown High School to expanding the GOAL Program to Saturdays, we are making positive changes to better serve Boston youth. You can read more about these new changes [below](#).

Preparations for the 2015 Operation SnowSports season are also well underway. We can't wait for the snow to fly and for Operation Snowsports to begin this January! This winter, over 800 Boston children and teens will get the opportunity to hit the slopes with YES. Applications for Operation SnowSports are currently being accepted for both income-eligible and above-income youth. The program is open to youth ages 7 - 18. Click [here](#) to register and for more information.

I also wanted to share important information with you about long-range planning for YES. We are currently involved in one of the organization's most important processes: Strategic Planning. You may be called upon in the coming weeks to complete a survey or participate in a stakeholder interview. Thank you in advance for your input and feedback about YES. We are so grateful for your support.

Here's to a great fall and snow-filled winter! We look forward to seeing you soon.



Bryan Van Dorpe
Executive Director



YES Academy Expands to Serve More Boston Teens

**6 - 8 PM
YES Annual
Meeting**

Join us for a celebration of achievements and vision for the year ahead at the EMC Club in Fenway Park. A light dinner will be followed by a brief program.

Event is free and open to the public.

Dress code: Casual Business Attire
RSVP by 12/1 to cbrydges@yeskids.org if you would like to attend.

**Wed, Dec 30
4:30 - 5:30 PM
Lighting Ceremony
at the Prudential
Center**

Join YES as we flip the switch at our "31 Nights of Lights" lighting ceremony at the Prudential Center. We will light the Pru orange for YES youth! For more information click [here](#). Event is free and open to the public. Hot chocolate will be served!

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

**Operation
SnowSports
Volunteers**

Applications are being accepted for Operation SnowSports volunteers until 11/21!

[Click here to learn more and read about the different volunteer opportunities.](#)

**Young Donors
Committee
Volunteers**



YES is kicking off the 2014-15 YES Academy program year with several new and expanded opportunities for our students.

- Last year, the YES Academy expanded by launching a [College Preparation](#) program to help students aspire and get into college. The program provides individualized support to YES teens - many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. Students receive one-on-one support for completing applications and essays; attend college tours; and participate in workshops about campus life, financial aid, and scholarships.
- The [Career Exploration](#) program will be taught at a second Boston Public High School in Spring 2015. This year, we are also adding a internship component to the program. Read our profile on Myles, our first Career Exploration intern, [below](#)!
- The [Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders](#) (GOAL) Program will be offered two days a week. Girls age 11-13 will attend on Fridays afternoon and older girls, ages 13-15, will attend on Saturday morning. "Dividing the girls by age group will allow us to better address the unique developmental needs of early teen girls," explains YES Academy Director, Shiona DeCarvalho.

For more information on our YES Academy programs and the exciting new expansions for the 2014-2015 school-year, visit www.yeskids.org!

YES Teen Helps Establish YES Ambassador Group

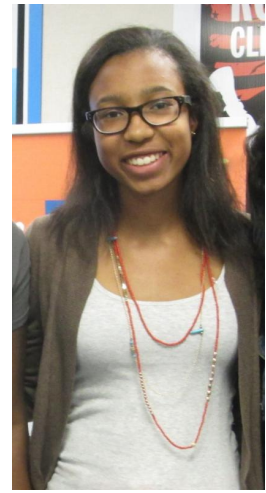
15-year-old YES teen, Zoe has been working with YES staff since last June to establish the first-ever YES Ambassador Group. Zoe has spoken at several YES fundraisers and says, "I love to share my story with others and tell others how YES has made such a positive impact on my life." Zoe's goal in helping to establish the YES Ambassadors is to help teach and empower other YES teens to effectively tell their story as well.

The youth ambassadors will meet monthly and learn how to confidently share their personal story and talk about the impact of YES in their lives. Teens will participate in storytelling workshops, event based experiential learning, and appreciation activities. "The YES Ambassador program will help youth self-reflect about challenges they've overcome in life, help them develop their voice as storytellers, and build a core

Are you a social butterfly? Help us plan YES events! E-mail cbrydges@yeskids.org for more information

group of teens who can effectively share their story of YES," explains YES Academy Director, Shiona DeCarvalho.

If you attend a YES event this year, you may see a YES Ambassador at the podium! See the full calendar of upcoming events at www.yeskids.org.

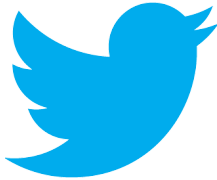


**Zoe, 15,
YES Ambassador
Leader**



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Are you interested in running in the Boston Marathon on April 20, 2015 and raising money to support YES? Take on the historic marathon and cross this epic 26.2 challenge off your bucket list while supporting YES youth! In exchange for an official number to the Boston Marathon, runners need to raise a minimum of \$10,000. YES will support marathoners both with their training schedule and fundraising efforts.

E-mail Bryan at bvandorpe@yeskids.org for more information or to request a Runner Application.



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**2015 BOSTON
MARATHON**

John Hancock



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Career Exploration Program Prepares Myles for the Workplace



16-year-old Myles is one of the first participants of YES's new [Career Exploration Internship Program](#). The Career Exploration Internship is a new component of the Career Exploration Program and is open to students who have completed the Career Exploration Program at YES. Myles says he decided to do the Career Exploration Internship at YES this year because, "I learned many skills with the Career Exploration Program last year, and the internship was the logical next step to use those skills. It was a great reason to come back to YES, too!"

As a Career Exploration Program student in 2013, Myles attended workshops focused on building career skills like resume writing and professionalism. He also did a career shadow with the Track Engineer who is designing the Green Line track extension to Somerville. During his career shadow, Myles learned about urban planning and received valuable advice on how to pursue a career in urban planning himself.

Myles, now a high school junior, decided to explore something different this fall and he chose to focus his internship project on ways that YES youth can get involved with community service. Myles was interested in this project because he has volunteered with various organizations all over Boston. One experience that helped shape Myles' desire to give back is the time he spent volunteering at Saturday's Bread, a hot meals program run out of St. John the Evangelist Church in Boston. Next month, Myles will complete his internship project on teen community service opportunities. He will get a chance to polish his presentation skills and discuss his findings with the Career Exploration team.

Visit [our Facebook page](#) to meet more youth in the program and learn about all the great activities in the Career Exploration program.

Give Back to YES with #GivingTuesday and Amazon Smile

Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season, Giving Tuesday takes place on December 2, 2014. Giving Tuesday aims to inspire people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support and help create a better world.

The logo for Giving Tuesday, featuring the text "#GIVINGTUESDAY" in white on a red background, with "DECEMBER 2" below it. The word "GIVING" is stylized with a heart shape made of three arrows pointing towards it.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™
DECEMBER 2

This year, Youth Enrichment Services is proud of the Giving Tuesday movement. You can support YES by clicking [here](#). Share how you took part in Giving Tuesday on social media using the hash tag #GivingTuesday. Encourage others to take part in Giving Tuesday too!



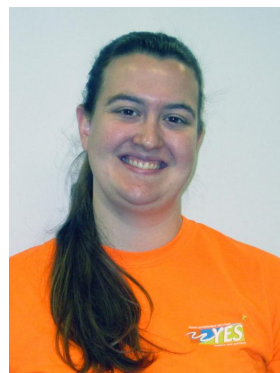
While you do your holiday shopping, do it through Amazon Smile! Click [here](#) and choose Youth Enrichment Services as the organization you would like to support.

If you do Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to YES, at no cost to you! Bookmark the link and use it when you shop on Amazon.

Thank you for your support!

Meet the New YES Staff

Allyssa Prutzman
GOAL Program Coordinator



Allyssa is a recent graduate from Northeastern University where she majored in Human Services. She is not a completely new face to YES! Allyssa worked as an Operation SnowSports Program Coordinator co-op at YES while she was at Northeastern University. This past summer, Allyssa returned to YES as the GOAL (Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders) Program

Coordinator. With the summer GOAL group, Allyssa "enjoyed sharing new experiences with the girls - from volunteering at Cradles 2 Crayon together to surfing at Cinnamon Rainbows, the group truly bonded!" Beyond their outdoor adventures together, the GOAL girls also engaged in group discussions about personal identity and female empowerment.

This fall, Allyssa looks forward to getting to know two new groups of GOAL girls as the Friday and Saturday school-year session girls begin their year together. They will start off the season with a GOAL rock-climbing trip - their first group challenge!

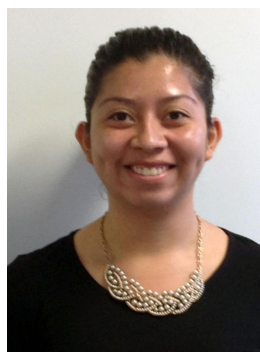
Courtney Walters
YES Program Coordinator



Courtney is graduating this December from Northeastern with a Bachelor's in Human Services and International Affairs. While at Northeastern, she worked at an elementary school for 6 months and taught skiing in Colorado for a season. You may have also seen her friendly face around YES last year, when she volunteered as a snowboard instructor with YES.

Courtney is now doing a service year as a Program Coordinator through [Coaches Across America](#), an Americorps Program that brings role models into sports-based youth development programs. Coaches Across America coaches bring sports to the youth that need it most and inspire youth to be leaders. Courtney says, "I'm very excited to be at YES to share my love of the outdoors with youth in Boston!"

Allison Zacarias
College Prep Fellow



Allison is a recent graduate of Bryn Mawr College where she double majored in Sociology and Spanish. She was able to attend Bryn Mawr through the help of the La Vida Scholars Program, a college access

program that is geared towards helping Latino/Hispanic students on the honor roll apply to and attend college.

Allison is currently doing a service year at YES as a [Mass Promise Fellow](#). The Mass Promise Fellow Program is an AmeriCorps program in which Mass Promise Fellows deliver the resources young people need to be successful in life by creating, managing, and leading meaningful out-of-school time programs for youth in grades 4-12.

Allison says, "My interest in college access/success stems from my personal experience of being fortunate enough to have had a local program encourage and support me to attain a Bachelor's degree. At YES I hope to encourage and support youth through the college application process, just as I was helped."

Welcome to the YES family Allyssa, Courtney, and Allison!

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