



Youth Enrichment Services *July 2020 Newsletter*



A Letter from YES Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

At Youth Enrichment Services (YES), one of the guiding principles that we always strive to share with young people is **resiliency**. Whether at the track, on the slopes, on the trails, or on the water, we encourage everyone to embrace the "YES-pectation" of **get back up when you are knocked down**. Over the past few months, we have seen just how resilient our youth, families, volunteers, and staff really are.

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to evolve, we know that the crisis is disproportionately impacting low-income families and communities of color. Since March, YES has been working to creatively support the low-and-moderate income Boston youth whom we serve through virtual platforms. From Zoom workshops on resume writing, college preparation, and virtual networking nights to weekly video workouts and outdoor scavenger hunts, the team at YES is staying connected with young people during their time at home.

With the summer season upon us, YES's Outdoor Adventure and Track & Field programs will look different than other years. What will not be different is YES's continued commitment to providing young people with opportunities to safely experience the outdoors. Programs will be modified to follow the current rules and regulations regarding the reopening stages of Massachusetts. Most importantly, YES is steadfast in its commitment to outreach to youth who have experienced isolation and limited access to outdoor activities during the quarantine.

We hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Bryan Van Dorpe
Executive Director
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

July 24 - 31: [Bike for Equality](#) (Virtual) Join Bike for Equality for a virtual bike race from July 24-31. This race is open to bikers of all ages and can be completed on your own time. Bike as much as you want during the racing period and donate \$1 for every mile you bike. Race proceeds will benefit YES and the Center for Policing Equity.

Thursday August 13 - POSTPONED: [Martin Richard Memorial Mile](#) Based on the state guidelines and the number and types of activities/competitions that take place for runners/walkers/rollers, spectators, volunteers, and supporters, we feel it is in the best interest of everyone's safety to postpone the event until 2021. We look forward to continuing to celebrate Martin's life and legacy on Thursday, August 12, 2021!

Saturday, August 15: [Operation SnowSports Volunteer Applications Open](#) Hit the slopes with YES this winter and help teach Boston youth how to ski and snowboard. No experience necessary!

Saturday, August 29: [Boston Waterfront Virtual 5K](#) (Virtual) Join Team YES on Saturday, August 29 for the Boston Waterfront Virtual 5K. Run, walk and get the whole family involved. Youth (ages 12 and under) participate for FREE! This annual event is hosted by YES partner, The McCourt Foundation, and raises funds for health and wellness organizations throughout Boston. 100% of funds raised by Team YES for the Waterfront 5K will directly benefit YES youth programs!

Saturday, September 19: [Tour de South Shore](#) (Virtual) Save the date! 5K Walk/Run, 25 Mile Bike Race, or 50 Mile Bike Race. Youth (ages 12 and under) can register for the 5k for FREE!

Monday, October 5: [10th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#) Save the date!

Youth Stay Virtually Connected with YES

YES youth have been able to stay virtually connected thanks to our staff and volunteers. A variety of fun and challenging outdoor experiences, virtual leadership development workshops, and ways to connect with each other were offered to youth of all ages. The goal of these programs was to remain connected during this time apart and continue to offer youth and teens enriching activities.



[Weekly Workout Challenges](#)

YES youth stayed active at home with video workout challenges! Workouts were based in the principles of track and field and offered youth drills to improve strength, speed, and endurance.



[Community Workouts with Julia Ford](#)

Olympic skier, elite athlete, coach, and long-time YES supporter, Julia Ford hosted three virtual workout sessions for the YES community. Workouts were recorded and are now available on the YES website for families to view. Workouts are 45-minute long and appropriate for all ages. Julia leads you through internal exercises to get you moving and have fun!



[Outdoor Scavenger Hunt](#)

A YES scavenger hunt came to a park near you! Youth got outside, explored, and found the sidewalk chalk messages from YES! Parks were located in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, South Boston, Jamaica Plain, and Roslindale. Scavenger hunts were set up weekly and could be completed any time throughout the day.



[Environmental and Nature Arts](#)

YES youth had the opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings, and voice through works of art and identify as an environmental artist. They learned how to design and create face coverings, natural sculptures, 2D and 3D models, and prints. They explored their connection with the natural world and daily environment through the techniques of paper cutting, printmaking, and model building! The program concluded with a virtual showcase to share everyone's artwork.



[YESChess](#)

Youth had a unique opportunity join a virtual chess class. They received an introduction to the game, interacted weekly with a new group of peers, improved self-confidence, practiced how to be better winners and losers!

[The 30-Minute Nature Challenge](#)

YES youth took on this weekly challenge and tested their ability to complete the challenge as they enjoyed the outdoors and connected with nature. Instructional videos were posted on the YES website weekly and youth had the weekend to complete the challenge.



[Leadership Corps Virtual Spring Session](#)

YES teens participated in an eight-week virtual Leadership Corps program. Workshops focused on leadership development, resume building, interview prep, effective communication, group facilitation, conflict resolution, and more. Teens practiced planning and facilitation skills and also participated in a virtual Networking Night over Zoom.

[Leadership Corps Friday Chat](#)

Hosted on Zoom, YES teens had a weekly opportunity to get together virtually to socialize, play games, and check-in with each other.



Join Team YES in the McCourt Foundation Boston Waterfront Virtual 5K **FREE Registration for Youth Ages 12 and Under**

Complete the run/walk any time on August 27, 28, or 29.

Registration includes Team YES t-shirt, Asics t-shirt, virtual race bag, race medal, and gift certificate for beer or appetizers at a participating restaurant partner.

5K registration will be \$30 until August 15th and \$35 until race day. Registration for youth ages 12 and under is FREE.



Members of Team YES are asked to raise \$250. 100% of funds raised by Team YES for the Waterfront 5K will directly benefit YES youth programs!

YES Summer Program Registration - Only a Few Spots Left!

YES is pleased to be reopening the doors at YES to safely serve young people this summer. Social distancing, hygiene, cleaning, and health testing protocols will be followed per Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines. YES's modified summer programs will offer youth opportunities to participate in outdoor enrichment activities. By having new experiences in the outdoors, youth will grow in confidence and explore the natural world around them.

Registration is currently open for Outdoor Adventure Sessions and Track & Field at Moakley Park and English High. Application deadlines vary for each program.

Outdoor Adventure Session 1: Ages 9-10

Mon - Thurs, July 13 - 23
AM Group: 8:45 - 11:45 am
PM Group: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Outdoor Adventure Session 2: Ages 11-12

Mon - Thurs, July 27 - August 6
AM Group: 8:45 - 11:45 am
PM Group: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Outdoor Adventure Session 3: Ages 9-12

Mon - Thurs, August 10 - 20
AM Group: 8:45 - 11:45 am
PM Group: 1:00 - 4:00 pm



Track and Field: Ages 9-13

Mondays or Thursdays
July 13 - August 20
6 - 7:30 pm
Moakley Park, South Boston
**Space is available for income eligible youth only*

Track and Field: Ages 9-13

Tuesdays
July 14 - August 18
6 - 7:30 pm
English High, Jamaica Plain
**Please note, this session is at capacity. Families are welcome to sign-up for the waiting list.*



Leadership Corps: Ages 13-15

Mon - Wed, July 13 - August 5
1 - 2:30 pm via Zoom
**Please note, this program is at capacity*

Leadership Corps is a program in which teens develop their leadership potential as they participate in outdoor activities. Due to COVID-19 the program will be held entirely virtually this year and feature leadership development workshops, fun virtual workouts/activities, and weekly challenges to get teens outside and moving.



Celebrate YES Seniors

Congratulations to the YES Academy Class of 2020! This year's seniors proved themselves to be resilient in overcoming the challenges they faced over the past months. We are so proud of their accomplishments at YES and in the classroom! 100% of YES seniors have plans to attend college in the fall.

Seniors have been involved with YES in a variety of capacities, including as Leadership Corps teens, teen staff, and many participated as YES kids when they were younger. As teens, they were positive role models to their peers and younger youth at YES. Congratulations, YES seniors! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

CONGRATULATIONS

YES

2020 SENIORS



**Congratulations
Destiny!**



Congratulations Gwen!



Congratulations Katie



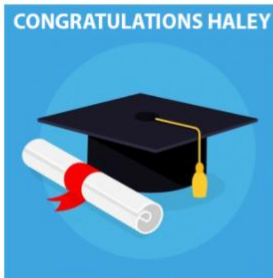
Congratulations Rose!



Congratulations Ginika!



**Congratulations
Willia!**



Congratulations Nicolas!



Congratulations Kayla!

YES Alums Graduate College

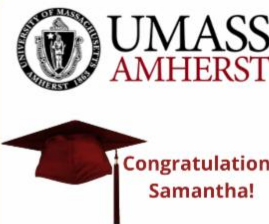
In addition, eight YES alumni graduated from college. Over the past four years, they have been leaders on their campus, held multiple jobs and internships, played sports, traveled and studied abroad, and had many accomplishments inside and outside the classroom. All stayed connected with YES during their time in college and several volunteered with YES when they returned home on breaks. Congratulations, YES alumni!



**Congratulations
Zoe!**



**Congratulations
Wendy!**



**CONGRATULATIONS
NUHA**



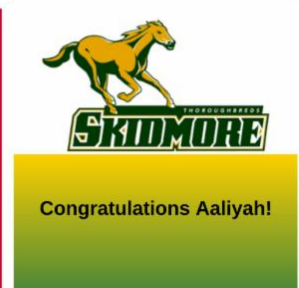
Congratulations Alia!



Congratulations Kaya!



Congratulations Tariq!



Congratulations Aaliyah!

YES Featured in Boston Magazine Article

YES was recently featured in a Boston Magazine article about organizations that support the black community in Boston. To read the article and see the full list of charities, click [here](#). Thank you, Boston Magazine!

Boston

AmazonSmile: You Shop, Amazon Gives!

Support YES When You Shop Using the Amazon App



The AmazonSmile program recently expanded and is now available when you shop using the Amazon app on your mobile and tablet devices! (Previously, charity donations from Amazon while you shopped were only for purchases made on a browser from the Amazon Smile webpage.) Support YES with every purchase you make on Amazon by selecting YES as your charity. Follow these easy steps, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to YES.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile', select Youth Enrichment Services (YES), and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

A large, orange, rounded rectangular button with the text "Donate Now" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

STAY CONNECTED



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