



Youth Enrichment Services January 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Sunday, January 8: [Operation SnowSports Begins](#) Get ready for a season filled with new experiences, challenges, and positive role models! The Operation SnowSports season kicks off in January. All winter long, Boston youth and teens will have the opportunity to downhill ski, snowboard, and cross-country ski around New England. Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) page to see photos from the slopes and trails!

Friday, February 3: [YES Family Fridays at Blue Hills Ski Area](#) (Blue Hills Ski Area - Canton, MA) Members of the YES community are invited for an evening of skiing and riding at Blue Hills Ski Area! Participants will have the option to purchase a snow pass only, snow pass and rental, or lesson package including snow pass, lesson, and rental. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Saturday, February 4 - Sunday, February 5: [The Run Show USA](#) (Hynes Convention Center - Boston, MA) Stop by the YES booth and say hi! The family-friendly event will bring together inspirational speakers, the latest gear, cutting-edge technology, expert coaches, the best races and a host of tasty nutrition products all under one roof. Runners of all ages and levels are welcome!

Friday, March 3: [YES Family Fridays at Blue Hills Ski Area](#) (Blue Hills Ski Area - Canton, MA) Members of the YES community are invited for an evening of skiing and riding at Blue Hills Ski Area! Participants will have the option to purchase a snow pass only, snow pass and rental, or lesson package including snow pass, lesson, and rental. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Saturday, March 18: [Mass Snow Challenge](#) (Wachusett Mountain - Princeton, MA) Save the date! Join YES for a fun-filled day with great skiing and snowboarding, racing, awards, and family games to support YES's Operation SnowSports youth programs!

Monday, April 17: [2023 Boston Marathon](#) (Boston, MA) Cheer on Team YES runners as they complete the 2023 Boston Marathon. Click [here](#) to learn more about our runners and support them.

Thursday, April 20: [12th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#) (Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel - Boston, MA) Save the date! Support YES at our biggest fundraiser of the year!

Thank You for Joining Us at the 2022 YES Annual Celebration

On Monday, December 5, the YES Annual Celebration returned to its in-person setting at Fenway Park for the first time since 2019. Over 100 supporters, volunteers, and friends joined us in the State Street Pavilion Club to celebrate YES and its achievements throughout the year.

During the event, YES welcomed two new members to the Advisory Council, four new members to the Board of Trustees, and three new members to the Board of Directors. Read more about them [here](#). In addition, 25 individuals renewed their commitment to serve on the YES Board of Directors and Trustees.



L to R: Bryan Van Dorpe, M. Ed., YES Executive Director with Shari Nethersole, M.D., Boston Children's Hospital Vice President, Community Health and Engagement; Marisa Otis, M.P.H., Boston Children's Hospital Community Health Program Coordinator; and Stacy Walker, M.B.A., Boston Children's Hospital Director of Community Health Planning and Engagement.



*YES Teen, Amia Weekes; and
YES College Prep Coordinator,
Aaliyah Yarde.*

YES parent and Dorchester resident, Keila Kiranga, shared the impact that YES had on her 8-year-old son, Mateo, as he became the first member of their family to learn how to ski. Six-year YES volunteer, Marina Freytsis, told the audience about her positive experiences teaching YES youth on the slopes and bike trails. And 17-year-old YES teen leader, Amia Weekes, shared her experience about being involved with YES since she was seven years old. In her remarks, Amia shared that participating in YES has inspired her to share her love of snowsports into her culture. "I want skiing to not just be a sport that is seen as 'a white people sport' but a sport that everyone is a part of." Amia wrapped up her remarks by sharing her plans after graduating high school – college to study pharmacology – and thanked YES for "letting me realize all my dreams are achievable and nothing should stop me."

The Boston Children's Hospital Collaboration for Community Health was awarded the 2022 YES Champion Award. YES has been fortunate to be a two-time recipient of financial support through their distribution of funds to support Boston organizations with programming to increase youth physical activity and recreation opportunities. Support and guidance from the center and their team have been instrumental in YES's growth, in particular our partnership programming with housing developments, especially the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments, schools, and other community providers.

Thank you for joining us!

New Board of Directors Members



Kalli Catcott



Deniz Ferendeci



Chris Harris

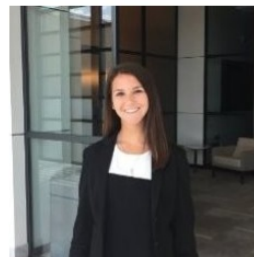
New Board of Trustees Members



Michael Abend



Marisol Cooke



Autumn Edelson



Shawn Hurley



Support YES at Wachusett

Wachusett Mountain Gives Back!

\$10 of every daily lift ticket sold in the 2022-23 season using code **DON-YES will be donated to Youth Enrichment Services (YES).** Wachusett has been a long-time partner of YES and support their Operation SnowSports program which provides skiing and snowboarding to Boston youth.

Purchase your lift ticket at www.wachusett.com. Enter coupon code **DON-YES** at checkout to ensure YES receives the donation from your purchase.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

YES Partners with NENSA and EMXC to Bring Roller Skiing to YES Youth

New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) and Eastern Mass Cross Country (EMXC) recently offered Youth Enrichment Services (YES) young people offer a roller skiing clinic. This is the second year NENSA and EMXC have collaborated to offer YES youth this clinic. The clinic was intended as a dry-land preparation for the upcoming winter season in the YES Operation SnowSports program which includes downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding.

Roller skiing is an off-snow equivalent to cross-country skiing. Roller skis have wheels on their ends and are used on a hard surface to emulate cross-country skiing. The skiing techniques used are very similar to techniques used in cross-country skiing on snow.

Volunteer coaches from YES and EMXC taught young people fundamentals of roller skiing while creating challenges with ramps, an obstacle course, and a game of roller ski hockey.



This winter, YES youth will use the skills they learned through roller skiing on the snow in the Cross-Country Ski Program. Young people will participate in a five-week long program at Weston Ski Track where they will have the opportunity to be active on the trails while learning the basics of the sport, practicing their skills, and having fun!

Share Winter Foundation, Vail Epic Promise, and Killington World Cup Foundation Support YES's Operation SnowSports Program

YES is thrilled to have recently received support from Vail Epic Promise, Share Winter Foundation, and the Killington World Cup Foundation to support the Operations SnowSports (OS) Program for the 2022-2023 season.

Vail Epic Promise is a new partner and supporter of YES. They generously donated 880 lift tickets for YES to utilize at Sunapee Resort; their gift has an in-kind value of \$88,000. The lift tickets will be used to underwrite two cohorts of youth participating in the YETTI Program (Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction).

The Share Winter Foundation awarded YES a generous \$50,000 grant to help fund the YETTI and Cross-Country Ski programs. This generous donation of lift tickets will help YES to continue its plan to scale up the YETTI program over the next 3-5 years. Additionally, the Killington World Cup Foundation (KWCF) generously renewed its support of YES with a \$10,000 grant. Funds will support the YETTI program. Both KWCF and Share Winter are long-time supporters of YES.

Read more about the support [here](#)!



Meet the YES 2023 Boston Marathon® Runners

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) received four bibs this year through the John Hancock Non-Profit Boston Marathon Program. We are thrilled to introduce four runners to Team YES: Kasey Boxleitner, Allie Kunen, Ellee Mullard, and Carolyn Soules. Read more about each runner [here](#)!



[Kasey Boxleitner](#)



[Allie Kunen](#)



[Ellee Mullard](#)



Carolyn Soules

Welcome New YES Staff

YES is thrilled to welcome three staff members to the Program team. Read below to learn more!



**Azikiwe Calhoun
(he/him)**
*YES Academy
Manager*

Azikiwe is a seasoned nonprofit professional with many years of experience in community

development and teaching young people. Azikiwe has a degree in International & Global Studies from The City College of New York and a Masters degree in International Development from Eastern University. He is certified in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Prior to joining YES, Azikiwe was a teacher in South Korea and served in the Peace Corps in Ghana.



**Eust Eustis
(they/them)**
*Part-Time Youth
Employment
Coordinator,
Activity Captain*

Eust recently joined YES staff as the Part-Time Youth Employment

Coordinator. They graduated from Simmons University in 2017 with a major in biochemistry with a minor in sociology. They have a background working as a Program Coordinator on projects advocating for peace and climate justice. Since fall 2021, Eust has worked as an Activity Captain at YES. As an Activity Captain, they support Operations SnowSports trips, Track & Field, and Drop-In Biking. In addition to their role as the Youth Employment Coordinator, they are excited to continue in their role as an Activity Captain this Operation SnowSports season.



**Kayla Tat
(she/her)**
*AmeriCorps Up2US
Coach*

Kayla recently graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with a degree in

Public Health. While on campus, Kayla worked as a Peer Mentor and Orientation Leader to provide support for incoming students. As a youth, Kayla participated in downhill skiing and rock climbing trips with YES through agency partnerships.



**Sam Trumble
(he/him)**
*AmeriCorps
Up2US Coach*

Sam has been involved with YES since he was seven years old. As a youth, he participated in Operation

SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and Track & Field and was a member of the Leadership Corps program throughout high school. Prior to his position at YES, Sam was traveling and enjoying his time experiencing the outdoors. Sam was accepted to attend New England College for Outdoor Education where he plans to continue to grow as a leader in the outdoors.

Meet the Operation SnowSports 2022-2023 Activity Captains

YES is welcoming four Activity Captains to lead Operations SnowSports trips this winter. Read below to learn more!



Maria Farias (she/her)

Maria is from Roslindale, MA and went to Assumption College where she studied Foreign Language Education. She has a background in after school and youth programming, including her 10+ years as a YES volunteer and her recent position as the Community Outreach Coordinator at YES. Maria is excited to be once again joining the YES team, and she is looking forward to be outside with youth and watching them make wonderful memories, challenge themselves, and enjoy the outdoors!



Huzefa Mandviwala (he/him)

Huzefa grew up in Andover, MA and attended Boston University for Computer Engineering. He currently works as a software engineer working at a startup in Cambridge. Outside of work, he loves to be outdoors - whether it be rock climbing, skiing, hiking, camping, or just going for walks on the esplanade. Huzefa was an Operation SnowSports volunteer in the 2021-22 season, and is excited to be joining the team as an Activity Captain and getting more youth out on the slopes to experience the thrill and freedom of skiing and riding.



Emma Turcotte (she/her)

Emma grew up in Muncie, IN and attended Earlham College with a major in Human Development and Social Relations. She was previously a member of the YES staff as the Adventure Programs Coordinator followed by the Youth Leadership Coordinator, and is thrilled to be returning to the organization as an Activity Captain. She has previous experience working as an outdoor trip leader and childcare leader. Emma can't wait to get back on the snow with YES kids, volunteers, and fellow staff. (And try to convince some to switch from skiing to her sport of snowboarding!)



THE RUN SHOW USA
FEB 4-5, 2023 – BOSTON, MA
HYNES CONVENTION CENTER

FREE TICKETS

USE CODE: YES
www.runshowusa.com

RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS

DONATE

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