



Youth Enrichment Services *March 2024 Newsletter*

Boston Youth Experience the Outdoors with YES this Winter



More than 600 Boston youth have been getting active and outdoors with YES this winter through the Operation SnowSports program. Since January, young people have been experiencing downhill skiing, snowboarding, and cross-country skiing, developing self-confidence, and gaining new skills on the slopes and trails!

This winter, students at Tech Boston Academy – a year-round YES Strategic Partner in Dorchester – are gaining skills and confidence as they learn to ski and snowboard weekly with YES at Blue Hills Ski Area (Canton, MA). In addition, YES is partnering with schools, housing developments, and youth centers to provide young people with outdoor opportunities this winter. These include Another Course to College (Hyde Park), Cruz C.A.R.E.S. (Roxbury), Curley K-8 School (Jamaica Plain), Josiah Quincy Upper School (Chinatown), Mildred C. Hailey Apartments (Jamaica Plain), St. Stephen's Youth Program (Roxbury and South End), Tenants Development Corporation (South End), and UP Academy (Dorchester).

Young people in the YES Cross-Country Ski Program at Weston Ski Track have also been active on the trails and having fun this winter! Youth participated in five weeks of cross-country skiing where they learned the basics of the sport, practiced their skills, and played games on their skis such as freeze tag and ski "soccer." Young people in the Cross-Country Ski Program also had the opportunity to participate in the Bill Koch Youth Festival in Vermont.

The Operation SnowSports season will wrap up in late March. Check out the YES [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to see more photos of the season!



Leadership Corps Teens Volunteer, Network, Explore, and Grow



Winter is a busy season for teens in the YES Leadership Corps program. The program offers teens in Grades 9-12 the opportunity to develop their leadership potential as they take part in and coach outdoor activities. From October - March, teens participate in weekly workshops and trainings, volunteer in the YES Rental Shop, and support Operation SnowSports trips.

YES Teens Participate in City of Boston's First Participatory Budgeting Process

At the beginning of 2024, teens from the YES Leadership Program were invited to the City of Boston's first-ever participatory budgeting process. This exciting new initiative – called Youth Lead the Change – was launched by the city's Office of Youth Engagement & Advancement. As part of Phase 1 of the process, young people from YES were solicited for their input on how they think the City of Boston should spend a \$1M line item in the budget! To read about the ideas and causes that our young leaders shared on how to use the Boston city budget, click [here](#)!

College Tours

During February vacation, teens had the opportunity to visit and tour colleges around New England. Stops on the tour included Boston University, Northeastern University, Emmanuel College, Roxbury Community College, Lasell University, and Framingham State University! Young people were able to explore different campuses and learn about a wide variety of majors and programs.

Career Networking Nights and Mock Interviews

In early February, teens had the opportunity to participate in Networking Nights with YES volunteers. Young people were able to ask questions, engage in conversations, and learn more about the industries in which they might be working in the future. Questions included advice about entering the field, what they studied in school, what a typical day looks like, and what skills are most important for their jobs. Teens also participated in Mock Interviews with YES volunteers, where young people had the opportunity to practice typical interview questions and receive feedback and suggestions. Thank you to the 25 volunteers who donated their time across these two series!

Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship

Applications for The Richard Williams Memorial scholarship are now open. This is an annual award presented to a graduating high school senior or GED recipient who has been a consistent, active member of Youth Enrichment Services. The youth selected for this scholarship must be enrolling in an accredited post-secondary institution starting in the fall of the same year as their high school graduation or receipt of the GED. [Click here to apply by Friday, April 12](#)



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 10: [Shamrock Splash](#) (Constitution Beach - East Boston, MA)

This annual event is hosted by YES partner, [Save the Harbor / Save the Bay](#). Funds raised by Team YES for the Shamrock Splash will directly benefit YES youth summer programs, including kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding! You can register for the event as a Splasher, a Dasher, or a Spectator – all registrations which include the party afterwards with food, drink, and fun!

[Register here](#) now!

Sunday, March 17: [Mass Snow Challenge](#) (Wachusett Mountain - Princeton, MA) Join YES for a fun-filled day with great skiing and snowboarding, racing, awards, and family games!

Monday, April 15: [2024 Boston Marathon](#) (Boston, MA) Cheer on Team YES runners as they complete the 2024 Boston Marathon. Click [here](#) to learn more about our runners and support them!




Thursday, April 25: [13th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#) (Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel - Boston, MA) Support YES at our biggest fundraiser of the year! Click [here](#) for tickets & sponsorships.

Saturday, April 27-Sunday, April 28: [The Boston Outdoor Expo](#) (Boston, MA) Ready for an adventure-packed weekend? Join us at The Boston Outdoor Expo! [Get your FREE tickets now](#) using code YES and gear up for a day filled with outdoor inspiration! From hiking to fishing, camping to mountain biking, there's something for everyone!

Sunday, June 9: [The Waterfront 5k](#) (Boston, MA) Save the date for this annual fundraising event featuring a unique 5K fun run/walk course with over a mile along the water, a fantastic post-race celebration with music, beer garden, and much more!

Thursday, August 15: [10th Annual Martin Richard Memorial One Mile Invitational](#) (South Boston, MA) Save the date! Registration will open in June. All ages and abilities are invited to participate in this inclusive, family-friendly race. The one mile that we run, walk, or shuffle through will celebrate Martin's zest for life as a competitor, teammate, and vibrant young boy. This special community event is co-hosted by YES and the Martin Richard Foundation.

Saturday, September 21: [Rodman Ride for Kids](#) (Foxboro, MA) Save the Date for the 34th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids! [Click here](#) to apply early to join Team YES for this year's event!

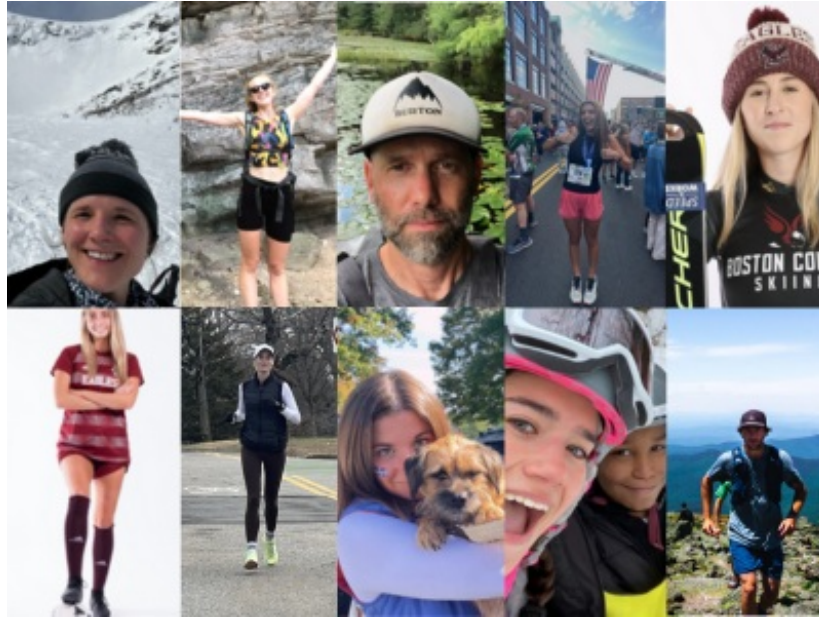


YES[★]
13TH ANNUAL
**BLACK
DIAMOND
GALA**
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024
**RENAISSANCE BOSTON
WATERFRONT HOTEL**
606 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210
Benefiting **Youth Enrichment Services**,
an organization that provides Boston's youth with
year-round outdoor and leadership programs.
For sponsorship and
ticket information visit:
www.yeskids.org/gala2024
or email: giving@yeskids.org

Sponsorships and individual tickets are now available for purchase. Click below to visit the official 13th Annual Black Diamond Gala website and get yours now!

13th Annual Black Diamond Gala Website

Meet the Team YES Boston Marathon Runners



Our Team YES 2024 Boston Marathon runners have been busy training and raising valuable funds for YES! From top left to bottom right, Amanda Englehardt Talbott, Kari Kenyon, Mark McGarry, Sofia Monserrat, Sam Naples, Ella Sirakovsky, Sara Sullivan, Hannah Trudeau, Katie Wakiyama, and Charles Williamson are passionate about supporting YES. These athletes are excited to raise valuable funds for our organization, and we can't wait to cheer them on come April 15! [Click here to support Team YES](#) and help them reach their fundraising goal!

Get your FREE Tickets to The Boston Outdoor Expo Now!

THE BOSTON OUTDOOR EXPO
Brought to you in partnership with **BOSTON.COM**
APRIL 27-28, 2024
BOSTON CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTER

A weekend full of inspiration for your next adventure

- 100'S OF BRANDS
- INSPIRATION STAGE
- ICE BATHS
- TRAIL RUNNING ZONE
- CLIMBING WALL
- ZEN ZONE - YOGA & BALANCE
- E-BIKE DEMOS

SIR RANULPH FIENNES

MIRNA VALERIO

KIMBER CROSS

MIKAH MEYER

THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

FREE TICKET OFFER ENDS SOON
USE CODE: YES

#bostonoutdoorexpo thebostonoutdoorexpo.com

Join us April 27-28 for the launch of the Boston Outdoor Expo at the Boston Convention Center! It is the Expo for anyone who loves any outdoor activity – no matter how experienced or if you are looking for a new hobby to get yourself active in the outdoors – there will be something for everyone! The show will host leading outdoor brands, inspirational speakers, and impressive features for you to enjoy throughout the weekend. Plus you'll get special prices on new gear, apparel, tech, advice, and products.

As a friend of YES, you have access to [FREE tickets](#) for the expo using code YES. Click below to get yours now, while supplies last!

Get FREE Tickets!

Volunteer Opportunities

Wednesday, March 13: [Track & Field Volunteer Application Deadline](#) (Moakley Park - Boston, MA) YES is recruiting volunteer coaches for its Spring and Summer Track & Field Program for Boston youth. No prior experience is required. Volunteers must have high energy and willingness to coach youth in the basic fundamentals of track & field. Click [here](#) to apply.

Tuesday, April 30: [Biking Volunteer Application Deadline](#) (Urban Edge - Roxbury, MA) Volunteer with YES on Saturday mornings this spring and help teach young people how to ride a bike and improve their riding skills! No prior experience needed. Click [here](#) to apply.

Program Deadlines

Friday, March 15: [Spring Track & Field Application Deadline](#) (Moakley Park - Boston, MA) In this program, youth in Grades 2-8 will be introduced to the basics of track & field in weekly practices. Click [here](#) to apply. Acceptance is based on household income, number of dependents, and residency in our targeted Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain. The program begins Monday, March 25.

Friday, April 12: [Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship Applications Due](#) (Boston, MA) Applications for The Richard Williams Memorial scholarship are **now open!** This is an annual award presented to a graduating high school senior or GED recipient who has been a consistent,

active member of Youth Enrichment Services. [Click here to apply by Friday, April 12.](#)



Operation SnowSports photography by Jodi Hilton, 2024.

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