



Youth Enrichment Services September 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Saturday, September 11: [Boston Waterfront 5K \(Massport Flynn Cruiseport - Boston, MA\)](#) Join YES at the Waterfront 5K hosted by the McCourt Foundation! Enjoy a 5K walk/run, youth races, and family-friendly games. 100% of funds raised by Team YES for the Waterfront 5K will directly benefit YES youth programs! Use code YES2021 to save \$10 on registration. Click [here](#) to join Team YES.

Saturday, September 11: [Dimock Road to Wellness 5k Run/Walk](#) (Dimock Center - Boston MA) Join YES at the Dimock Road to Wellness 5k Run/Walk this Saturday. The event is aimed at inspiring mind, body, and spiritual health through fitness and exercise.

Wednesday, September 15: [Shop Nights Begin](#) (Boston, MA) Adult volunteers needed to help YES get our ski shop in shape before the winter season! Email recreation@yeskids.org for more information.

Saturday, September 18: [Outdoor Adventure Biking Begins](#) (Roxbury, MA) Join YES for a weekly Drop-In Biking Program at Urban Edge every Saturday 10am - 12pm from September 18 - October 23. Boston youth ages 7-18 will learn how to ride, improve their biking skills, and connect with positive adult models. Click [here](#) to register. Volunteers are also needed, click [here](#) to apply.

Monday, September 20: [Fall Cross Country Running Program Begins](#) (Moakley Park - South Boston, MA) The YES Cross Country program helps youth to develop stamina and strength through distance running. The program focuses on conditioning and physical fitness in a safe and nurturing outdoor environment. Youth develop self-esteem and confidence while building a foundation for a healthy lifestyle. Youth will participate in running competitions including the Mayor's Cup Race at Franklin Park on October 24. Weekly practices on Mondays from 6:00 - 7:15 pm September 20 - November 15. Click [here](#) to apply. Volunteers are also needed, click [here](#) to apply.

Monday, September 20: [Activity Captain Application Deadline](#) (Boston, MA) YES is hiring! Do you have a passion for the outdoors and working with Boston youth? Apply to be an Activity Captain and provide direct service to Outdoor Adventure, Track and Field, Operation SnowSports programs! Priority review will go to candidates who submit a cover letter and resume by September 20. Click [here](#) to apply.

Sunday, September 26: [Tour de South Shore](#) (Wompatuck State Park - Hingham, MA) Join Team YES at the Tour de South Shore hosted by The McCourt Foundation! Participants can choose between doing a 5k walk/run, bike ride (25 or 50 mile), or both! Registration includes a fun after-party with food, beer, and more. Use code YES2021 to save \$10 on registration. Click [here](#) to join Team YES.

Sunday, September 26: [Roller Ski Clinic with NENSA](#) (Boston, MA) Join YES and New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) for a roller ski clinic. We are extremely excited to work with NENSA again this fall and grow our cross-country ski program to new heights. This event is open to youth ages 9 to 18 years old, priority will be given to previous program participants and income eligible participants. More details to follow.

Monday, October 11: [Boston Marathon](#) (Boston, MA) Cheer on Team YES runners as they take on the 2021 Boston Marathon. Click [here](#) to meet the team.

Monday, October 18: [Leadership Corps Begins](#) (Boston, MA) This program offers Boston teens (ages 13-18) the opportunity to develop their leadership potential as they participate in and coach outdoor activities. Teens develop their leadership and career readiness skills through participating in workshops and trainings and put those skills into practice through volunteering with YES's ski & snowboard rental shop and supporting snowsports trips. Application deadline is October 6, click [here](#) to apply.

Monday, October 18: [2021 Embarc Classic](#) (Blissful Meadows - Uxbridge, MA) Private event. Thank you to Embarc Studio for generously hosting this charity golf tournament to benefit YES!

Saturday, November 6 - Sunday, November 7: [Annual Ski and Snowboard Sale](#) (Boston, MA) Join YES for our annual ski sale! Shop discounted ski jackets, snow pants, ski and snowboard equipment, and more outdoor equipment!

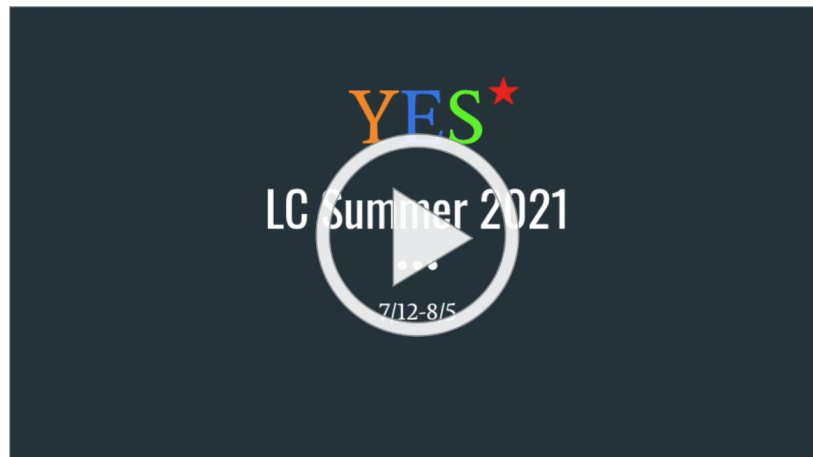
Summer at YES: Outdoor Programs, Leadership Opportunities, and More!

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) is grateful to have had the opportunity to be back in person with Boston youth this summer! Following COVID-19 guidelines from the MA Department of Health allowed Boston youth to have the chance to explore the outdoors and experience new adventures with YES.

This summer, the Track & Field program was extended to four nights per week, Mondays and Thursdays at Moakley Park in South Boston and Tuesdays and Wednesdays at English High in Jamaica Plain. Boston youth ages 6-13 had the opportunity to connect with one another and develop confidence while learning new skills, such as running, throwing, and jumping.



After being virtual last summer, Leadership Corps was able to be back in person this year! YES teens had the opportunity to participate in activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, and biking, as well as grow in their leadership skills through volunteering around Boston, including Magazine Beach and Middlesex Fells. Watch the video below made by YES Teen Staff to see summer at YES with Leadership Corps!



YES continued its Outdoor Adventure Program partnership with community organizations this summer. Every week, youth from the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments, Urban Edge, and Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition had the opportunity to experience biking with YES. Young people living in YES's priority neighborhoods, many with limited access to the outdoors learned how to ride, improved their biking skills, and connected with positive adult models.

In the YES Family Adventure outdoor sessions, Boston families got the opportunity to be physically active and explore the outdoors. YES staff led activities including kayaking at Carson Beach in South Boston, biking in Mattapan, hiking in the Blue Hills, and fishing on Boston Harbor.



[See more photos from this summer in the Outdoor Adventure Facebook album!](#)

Thank you to Ginger DeShaney, Chris Hurley, Evan Scales, YES staff, and YES teen staff for taking wonderful pictures of programs all summer long!

Welcome to YES's 2021-22 Mass Promise Fellows

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



Alex Nguyen
*Leadership Corps
Success
Coordinator,
Mass Promise
Fellow*

Alex is originally from Dorchester. His family immigrated from Vietnam before he was born. He

is a recent graduation of UMass Boston with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He has previous experience working with youth, including as a teacher at the VietAID Scholarly Program for Youth, where he provided academic support and tutoring for students as well as building community engagement through events and activities. Alex is excited to start working with YES teens and participating in outdoor activities alongside them.



Aaliyah Yarde
*College Prep
Coordinator,
Mass Promise
Fellow*

Aaliyah is originally from Boston and is a former participant and volunteer in YES programs. She recently

graduated from Skidmore College with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Physiology. She has previous experience working with youth as the Americorps Vista at Boys & Girls Club of Boston and she is excited to start working with YES teens. Aaliyah understands the value in having someone to help guide young people through the college process because someone was there to help her when she needed it. She is ready to be there for teens so they are not alone throughout the college process.

Boston Runners Come Together and Celebrate Community at The Martin Richard Memorial One Mile Invitational

The 7th Annual Martin Richard Memorial One Mile Invitational took place on Thursday, August 19 at Boston's Moakley Field. More than 150 runners of all ages and abilities participated. This special event celebrates the life of Martin Richard who participated YES Track & Field Program along with his siblings. Martin started his running career with YES in 2009 at age 5. In his early days, Martin chased his brother, Henry, and the older athletes, many of whom he would eventually catch up to and pass. Fairness, inclusion, and teamwork were always important values to Martin. This annual event is a special time for our community to come together to celebrate Martin's zest for life as a competitor, teammate, and vibrant young boy.



Races this year included 400 meter races for ages 4-8 as well as a 400 meter Adaptive Race for all ages, 1 mile races for youth, high school students, adults, and wheelchair racers, and a Non-Competitive 1 Mile Walk/Run/Roll for anyone!



This event marks our first in person event since January 2020. The Martin Richard Mile was postponed last year due to COVID-19, but YES was excited to be able to host it again this year. Due to COVID, we took extra precautions in order to ensure safety and health for all of our runners and volunteers. Individuals were encouraged to wear masks when they were unable to social distance, and spectators were asked to enjoy the meet from the stands. Runners were escorted and guided in an orderly fashion to avoid overcrowding. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make this event safe and enjoyable!

A huge thank you to our event sponsors and partners for this year including the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation, Adage Capital Management, Adaptive Sports New England, New Balance Foundation, and USA Track and Field-New England.

The 7th Annual Martin Richard Memorial One Mile raised over \$2,000 for YES. Thank you to all of our supporters who attended the event!

YES was recently selected as the benefiting charity of two groups who were fundraising and biking this summer!



Bring the Stoke

[@bringthestokebrand](#)

Bring the Stoke recently biked more than 400 miles from the Canadian border of Vermont to Holden, Massachusetts with a goal of raising \$2,000 for YES. Bring the Stoke selected YES as their benefiting charity because they share a similar mission of wanting to get youth outdoors and giving them new experiences. Miles Nessuno from Bring the Stoke says, "So, when we tirelessly ride our bikes with sunburnt and mosquito bitten skin, we will also be thinking of the kids who grew up without a bike, or not knowing how to ride. It's all about perspective, remember!"



Great Gals Great Divide

[@greatgalsgreatdivide](#)

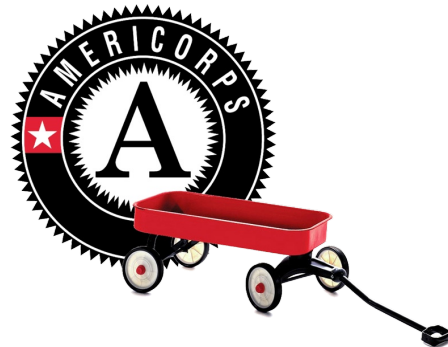
Three friends that make up Great Gals Great Divide recently biked 2,500 from the Canadian border in Montana to the Mexican boarder in Antelope Wells, New Mexico. On their ride, they raised money for and encouraged others to donate to YES. They chose YES as their benefiting charity because, "Having time to explore and learn in the outdoors was hugely impactful in our upbringing and would love that for more Boston area kids."

YES Selected as the Mass Promise Fellowship Host Site of the Year

YES was recently chosen as the Mass Promise Fellowship Host Site of the Year. We were nominated and chosen based on the impact we have in the community, how we advocate for youth voice and agency, having a dedicated staff, and proving our fellows with a great experience.

During 2020-2021, YES was fortunate to host two Mass Promise Fellows: Tess Stogner, Leadership Corps Success Coordinator; and Amanda Wahlstedt, College Prep Coordinator.

"This year was full of challenges," says Yuliya, Youth Leadership Manager at YES, "YES has done lots of programming and adapted our programming to overcome some of the difficulties of this year to still connect to our young people, and give them opportunities for career-readiness and college preparedness, and also to get outside. We've done skiing and biking and hiking and we couldn't have done it without our Mass Promise Fellows, Amanda and Tess, who have been a dedicated, very important part of this year."



Alumni Spotlight

YES is excited to share stories of our many alumni who have continued on the pathway of success after their time with YES. The organization has served an estimated 100,000 young people in its 53-year history. Click below to learn more about three of our recent alumni!



[Tyla Grooms](#)

"My time at YES taught me the importance of believing in myself and not being afraid of taking healthy risks."



[Washawn Castro](#)

"YES allowed me to experience and learn new skills that I never thought I would have."



[Alexis Savage](#)

"The YES community is always there for you and you can always come home."

Are you a YES Alumni and have a story to share? Contact mburgess@yeskids.org

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