OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARTICIPATION

324 participants
1,677 participation days

Outdoor Adventure Programs

Outdoor Adventure - YES Kids: Provides youth ages 9 - 12 with exciting experiences that build confidence and leadership skills through a variety of activities including fishing, kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and stand-up paddleboarding. Youth are introduced to these recreational activities and learn how to care for and respect the outdoors. Participants spend an additional week-long overnight adventure at YES’s historic Swann Lodge. This program challenges participants with new experiences, builds environmental stewardship and exposes them to the natural world in and around Boston.

Outdoor Adventure Program - Strategic Partners: Offer 20 youth serving agencies in Boston high quality, low cost outdoor adventure trips – kayaking, mountain biking, and rock climbing. The trips were led and facilitated by YES adult and teen staff. These single day activities offered a stimulating and new experience for many YES youth while encouraging them to pursue further YES trips and experiences.

Track & Field Program: Offers both introductory experiences and competitive training for youth ages 4 -13. Youth try new activities and challenges while experiencing the complete realm of track and field: running, throwing, and jumping. Consistent small groups are led by adult and teen coaches at Moakley Park’s Saunders Stadium (South Boston) and English High School (Jamaica Plain).
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHTS

100% of parents reported an increase in their child’s confidence after participating in YES programs this summer.

87% of youth would recommend Track and Field to their friends.

88% of Strategic Partner youth overcame a challenge while participating in Outdoor Adventure.

85% of Outdoor Adventure—YES Kids youth felt they improved their teamwork skills.

WORDS FROM YES YOUTH

“I was excited about making new friends and going new fun places with them.”
- Christian, 9

“[My favorite thing about YES is] that we are outside a lot. That we are always on field trips instead of always on electronics.”
- Grace, 11

“YES has helped me try new things. This year, I’ve fly fished, kayaked, hiked, and skied for the first time with YES.”
- Karim, 12
SAFETY STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Safety is our number one priority at YES.

Adult and teen staff participate in extensive trainings to ensure youth are physically safe and emotionally supported during their fun, first time experiences. YES's summer camp meets all regulatory standards established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is a licensed summer camp by the City of Boston.

The inspection process ensures that the camp provides an appropriate environment to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the youth. YES collects pertinent information about participants' physical and mental health in order to ensure the staff is fully prepared to work with each campers individual needs.

STAFF CERTIFICATIONS

- Wilderness EMT
- Wilderness First Aid and Response
- CPR/First Aid/EpiPen
- Waterfront Lifeguard Certification
- Supervision of Camps Certification
- ServSafe (Food Safety) and Allergen Awareness
- American Mountain Guide Association - Single Pitch Instructor
- ACA (American Canoe Association) Level 2 Kayak Instructor Certification

TRAININGS

All adult and teen staff are required to complete the following trainings:

- Group Facilitation
- 51A Training (Mandated Reporter Training)
- Heads Up Concussion Training
- Behavior Management
- Safety Policy Review
- Meaningful Reflection
- Kayak Rescue Training
- Bicycle Safety
- Rock Climbing: Belay Training
SUMMER TEEN STAFF

YES continues the leadership pipeline of high impact programs by partnering with the City of Boston and John Hancock MLK Scholars to employ youth in a supervised summer jobs program. YES's teen employees are charged with the responsibility of being role models and coaches to Outdoor Adventure and Track & Field participants or as key support for YES’s administrative team.

Professional Development:

In addition to safety and youth development training, teen staff are also afforded professional development opportunities throughout the summer including workshops, job shadows, and a trip to the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the US Senate.

Field Trips
- Natixis
- Edward Kennedy Institute
- Northeastern and University of Massachusetts College Tours

Workshops
- Public Speaking
- Resume Writing
- Networking and Interview Skills
- Budgeting and Personal Finance
- Leadership and Identity

Summer Teen Staff:
- 14 John Hancock Martin Luther King Summer Scholars
- 6 City of Boston – Dept. Youth Engagement and Employment
- 12 YES Track and Field Assistant Coaches
OUTCOMES MEASURES

To ensure program quality, YES measures 10 outcomes across all programming.

1. Youth reported a positive experience with YES staff and/or volunteers.

2. Youth feel physically and emotionally safe when participating in programs.

3. Youth view staff and volunteers as positive role models.

4. Youth feel confident in their abilities.

5. Youth had the opportunity to try something new and to be challenged.


7. Youth self-report a decrease in screen time as a result of outdoor activity participation.

8. Youth would recommend the program to peers.

9. Youth express interest in continued participation in registered program.

10. Based on program experience youth express interest in other YES programs.

PROGRAM QUALITY MEASUREMENTS

SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

- Positive experience with YES Staff and Volunteers
- Instructor created safe environment
- Volunteer/staff as positive role model

SKILL AND LIFE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- Confidence to face a challenge
- Trying something new
- Self-reported skills improvement
- Decrease in screen time

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

- Recommend to peers
- Continued participation in current program
- Interest in other programs

* Note: Positive Role Model and Screen Time Outcomes not measured with Strategic Partners program.