



## Youth Enrichment Services *September/October 2023 Newsletter*

### Upcoming Events & Important Dates

**Saturday September 30:** [Outdoor Adventure Biking Begins](#) (Roxbury, MA) Join YES for a weekly Drop-In Biking Program at Urban Edge every Saturday at 10 am-12 pm from October 1-29. Boston youth ages 7-18 will learn how to ride, improve their biking skills, and connect with positive adult models. No application necessary, just drop by!

**Friday, October 6:** [Operation SnowSports Volunteer Applications Open](#) Volunteer with YES's operation Snowsports program this winter! We welcome a diverse group of applicants from all backgrounds and ability levels. From intermediate/advanced skiers and riders who want to teach, to enthusiastic community members who want to role model and learn. Click [here](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities and apply!

**Sunday, October 15:** [6th Annual MR8K presented by New Balance](#) YES will be returning as a nonprofit team at the 6th Annual MR8K on October 15! The race is open to runners, walkers, para-athletes and families of all ages and abilities. Proceeds and optional fundraising efforts benefit the Martin Richard Foundation. Register to join Team YES [here](#) and help us receive a grant of up to \$5,000 from the foundation. This 5-mile event is in Boston's Seaport, starting at Martin's Park and ending at Cisco Brewery. We can't wait to see you there!

**Tuesday, October 17:** [Leadership Corps and College Prep Programs Begin](#) Open to Boston teens (ages 14-18), these programs support young people to develop leadership skills, prepare for college, and explore career pathways. Application deadline is October 6, click [here](#) to apply!

**Monday, October, 23: Mayor's Cup Race** (Boston, MA) Youth participating in the Fall Cross Country Track program will get the chance to put their distance running skills to the test at the Mayor's Cup at Franklin Park! This is an event you will not want to miss.

**Friday, November 3 - Sunday, November 5:** [Snowbound Expo](#) (Boston Convention and Exhibition Center – Boston, MA) Kick off the winter season with us at the BIGGEST snowsports expo for families, skiers, and riders! The Snowbound Expo brings together mega indoor slopes, inspiring athletes, expert coaches, the latest gear and technology, and more. Click [here](#) to register for FREE using code YES. YES will also have a booth at the event, so stop by and say hello!

**Tuesday, November 28:** [Giving Tuesday](#) After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday! YES welcomes your financial support all year-long, but this special day of giving brings everyone together in philanthropy and highlights the good work of non-profit organizations around the world, including YES! Stay tuned as we highlight all the different ways that your donation make a difference.

**Monday, December 4:** [Annual Celebration at Fenway](#) (Boston, MA) Save the date! Join us to celebrate all that YES has accomplished over the past year as we look forward to next year.

**Saturday, January 27 - Sunday, 28, 2024:** [Run Show Expo](#) (Hynes Convention Center – Boston, MA) We've partnered with The Boston Run Show and we're offering a limited number of FREE tickets for this year's event! Snag yours now [here](#) using free ticket code YESKIDS. Don't

miss out on an exhilarating celebration of running, health, and fitness that promises to take your passion to the next level. YES will have a booth at the event, so stop by and say hello!

**Thursday, April 25, 2024: [13th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#)** (Boston, MA) Save the date! The 13th Annual Black Diamond Gala to benefit YES will be on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Boston Renaissance Waterfront Hotel, located at 606 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210.

## Youth Experience the Outdoors with YES this Summer



More than **300 youth** had the opportunity to experience the outdoors with YES this summer. Youth and teens explored new sports-based activities, developed self-confidence, gained leadership skills, and created new friendships. This has been a summer that our youth will never forget!

This summer, YES provided two week-long overnight camp sessions at YES's Swann Lodge in the Berkshires for youth in Grades 4-5 and Grades 6-8. Activities included hiking, swimming, canoeing, outdoor games, and roasting marshmallows - of course! YES also provided day camp (two 2-week sessions) for youth in Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8. Young people challenged themselves with new outdoor activities including kayaking, rock climbing, stand-up paddleboarding, mountain biking, disc golf, and more!

YES once again hosted a Summer Track & Field program 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. In addition, youth had the opportunity to participate and compete in local developmental meets hosted by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA).

### FUNDRAISE

This summer, YES employed over 25 Boston teens to support our youth programs. Teen staff helped out at Track & Field, on Outdoor Adventure trips, and at the YES office. During their time at YES, teens gained new skills, including leadership and organization, that they will be able to bring to the classroom and their other jobs this fall.

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

## Fall Opportunities with YES



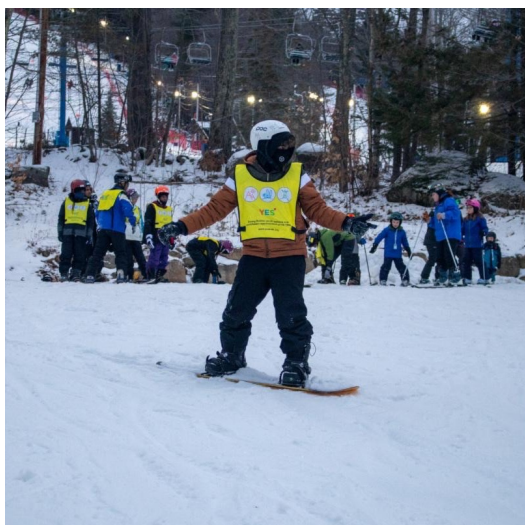
The YES **Cross Country Track program** kicked off on Monday, 9/25 and we couldn't be more excited! Every Monday at Moakley Park, youth will develop their strength and stamina through distance running and various exercises. Youth will also participate in running competitions including the **Mayor's Cup Race** at Franklin Park on October 23. Weekly practices are on Mondays from 6:00 - 7:00pm, September 19 - November 14.

The first YES **Drop-In Biking** clinic begins this Saturday (9/30) at Urban Edge! Every Saturday at 10am-12pm from October 1 - October 29, Boston youth ages 7-18 will learn how to ride, improve their biking skills, and connect with positive adult models. No application is necessary, just drop by!



## Volunteers Needed for YES's Operation Snowsports Program

Operation Snowsports is YES's flagship program, serving about **600-700 youth** every winter through downhill skiing, snowboarding, and cross-country skiing programs! The volunteer application opens on **Friday, October 6**. If you are interested in volunteering with YES for this program, click [here](#) for more information on how to get involved!

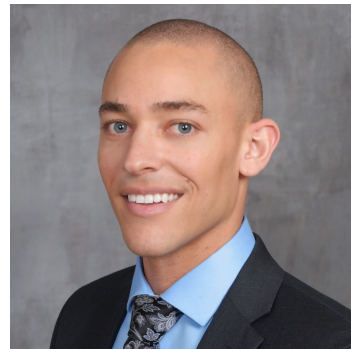






## YES Welcomes Six New Staff Members

**Scott Relerford** (he/him) is the **Leadership Corps Success Coordinator (Mass Promise Fellow)** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Prior to joining YES, Scott studied at the University of California Riverside where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. Scott is passionate about community engagement, science, and healthcare, and is motivated to help inspire upcoming youth leaders and encourage positive change in their lives. Scott is originally from Las Vegas and recently moved to Boston. During his free time, he enjoys working out, cooking, and exploring new places with friends.



**Angie Hyppolite (Gigi)** (she/her) is the **College and Career Coordinator (Mass Promise Fellow)** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Prior to joining YES, Gigi was a site coordinator at St. Stephen's youth program for over 3 years. Gigi is from the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston, and she has 9 years of experience working with children of all ages. In addition, last school year, she had the opportunity of being a behavioral residential counselor for adolescents. This year, Gigi is excited to pursue her role at YES and help youth with their post-high school plans.



**Caitlin French** (she/her) is the **Communications & Marketing Coordinator** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Prior to joining YES, Caitlin graduated with honors from St. Lawrence University, earning a BA in Business in the Liberal Arts and Performance and Communication Arts with a concentration in Rhetoric. Caitlin has always enjoyed giving back to her community and exploring the outdoors, and she is passionate about using her creative and strategic skillset to elevate YES's mission.



**Erin MacQueen** (she/her) is the **Development Coordinator** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). She is originally from Framingham, MA. She graduated from Wellesley College with degrees in Political Science and French. Prior to joining YES, she was a language assistant for the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). She has previously held positions in the

Wellesley College development office and has worked with Boston-based non-profits such as St. Stephen's Youth Programs.



**Kristin Taylor** (she/her) is the **Director of Programs & Operations** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Kristin has over 20 years of experience working with children and families who have experienced homelessness, youth involved in the juvenile dependency system, and affordable housing communities. Prior to this role, Kristin spent 6 years in California developing and implementing programs with a large nonprofit affordable housing developer. Kristin has an extensive background in social work and youth development and has held numerous leadership positions within transitional and permanent housing programs, community-based organizations, and out-of-school time programs. In addition to her professional experience with program development and management, Kristin is also an active volunteer with organizations serving youth and young adults in foster care. A graduate from Stonehill College with a degree in Sociology, Kristin has also obtained specialized certifications in Psychological and Mental Health First Aid, supporting LGBTQ+ youth in systems of care, and best practices in trauma-informed care approaches.



**Dante Kimbrough** (he/him) is the **Rental Shop Coordinator and Outdoor Instructor** at Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Dante was a student athlete at Hobart and William Smith colleges who studied movement studies and education. This past summer he worked with YES as an Activity Captain and he is transitioning into the Rental Shop Coordinator and Outdoor Instructor role. Dante has a wide variety of volunteering, teaching, and coaching experience. He is certified in Lifeguarding, CPR, first aid and Waterfront Safety.



## YES Receives New Bikes for Outdoor Adventure Programs

We are so excited to announce that YES has a brand new fleet of bikes thanks to the generous support of several organizations, donors, and community members! These new bikes will be used in YES's Outdoor Adventure Programs to help young people learn how to ride, develop their biking skills, build self-confidence.

### THANK YOU:

- Boston Children's Hospital
- New Belgium
- Northeastern Office of Community Engagement
- Anonymous Donor
- Bikes Not Bombs
- Life Science Cares

Click [here](#) to read more about the volunteers, teamwork, and assembly that made this project such a success!



### Join Team YES at the MR8K!

YES will be returning as a nonprofit team at the 6th Annual MR8K on **October 15!** The race is open to runners, walkers, para-athletes and families of all ages and abilities. Proceeds and optional fundraising efforts benefit the Martin Richard Foundation. Register to join Team YES below and help us receive a grant of up to \$5,000 from the foundation. This 5-mile event is in Boston's Seaport, starting at Martin's Park and ending at Cisco Brewery. We can't wait to see you there!

Join Team YES





## Visit YES at the Snowbound Expo

This year, once again, we're partnering with Snowbound Expo, the biggest snow sports expo for families, skiers and riders, bringing incredible athletes and Olympians to share their stories and all the coolest brands together for you to shop. You'll see free entertainment for the family all weekend including the mega indoor slope, skate to ski with rollerblade, try out Nordic skiing at the cross-country experience, enjoy après ski and much more. Book free tickets for Snowbound Expo, **(Nov. 3-5, Boston Exhibition & Convention Center)** before this offer ends, end of September. **Use code YES** and secure your ticket now:



## TICKETS

Donate and help make a difference in the lives of Boston youth:

# DONATE

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