



## Youth Enrichment Services *September/October 2020 Newsletter*

### Upcoming Events & Important Dates

**Wednesday, September 30:** [Deadline to Complete the 2020 Census](#) Many of Boston's communities are at risk of an undercount. We need a complete and accurate count because all of Boston deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in. Visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) to complete your census online from home.

**Sunday, October 4 - 11:** [Virtual Franklin Park Mile](#) (Virtual) Run a mile for YES! Join our friends at Forest Hill Runners for a one-mile run on a marked course in Franklin Park on October 4 - 11. If you can't make it to Franklin Park, the mile can be completed around your neighborhood or at a local track. This race is FREE and open to all ages and abilities.

**Monday, October 5:** [10th Annual Black Virtual Diamond Gala](#) (Virtual) The night promises to be an evening of fun and inspiration offering something for everyone! Event entry is free and open to the entire YES community. Click here to register.

**Monday, December 7:** [YES Annual Celebration](#) Save the date for this annual celebratory event with the YES Board of Directors and Trustees. Event is free and open to everyone in the YES community!



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020**

★ **VIRTUAL EVENT** ★

7:00 pm

Black Diamond Gala Co-chairs

**Colleen & Kris Courtney and Genny & Geoff Soper**



Platinum Peak Sponsors:

**Adage Capital Management**  
**Yawkey Foundations**



Summit Seekers Sponsors:

**David & Mia Fitzgerald**  
**Phill & Liz Gross**  
**Brian Lash & Family**  
**Martin Richard Foundation**  
**Meg Reynolds & Skip McKee**  
**Carolyn & Jason Soules**



Entry to the event is complimentary

*Sponsorship opportunities still available!*

**RSVP NOW**



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## Summer Re-Imagined at YES

Although this summer looked different than most, more than 100 Boston youth still had the opportunity to experience the outdoors with Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Youth and teens explored new sports-based activities, developed self-confidence, gained leadership skills, and created new friendships. Read more about our modified summer programs below.

YES is fortunate to have had the opportunity to safely get outside and active with our youth this summer by following COVID-19 guidelines from the State Department of Public Health. Programs were modified to meet these requirements and include: logging visitors for contact tracing; logging as well as increasing the cleaning and sanitation of the building and equipment; administering health checks for participants, staff, and volunteers; eliminating the use of vans for program transportation; requiring masks; practicing social distancing; and reducing group size and numbers served.



### **Outdoor Adventure**

Youth ages 9 - 12 had experiences that helped them find adventure in different ways, become curious about the world around them, and understand themselves and those around them better. Activities included Geocaching, gardening, field games, and more.

### **Track & Field Program**

Youth ages 9 - 13 tried new activities and challenges and experienced the complete realm of track and field: running, throwing, and jumping. Consistent small groups were led by adult and teen coaches at Moakley Park's Saunders Stadium (South Boston) and English High School (Jamaica Plain).

### **Leadership Corps**

Leadership Corps is a program in which teens develop their leadership potential as they participate in outdoor activities. Due to COVID-19 the program was held entirely virtually this year and featured leadership development workshops, fun virtual workouts/activities, and weekly challenges to get teens outside and moving.

### **Summer Teen Staff**

Every year, YES provides meaningful employment to teens in Boston. This year, our usual summer teen staff leaders worked a hybrid schedule, which included working from home. The teens spent this remote time engaging in professional development workshops, participating in online workouts, and completing several projects which culminated in the creation of the Leadership Corps site, a teen resource hub for YES teens. Click [here](#) to visit the youth-developed website.

### **Family Adventure Sessions**

This summer, YES introduced new Family Adventure Sessions for families to get outdoors and active together. Activities included paddling, rock climbing, and biking with YES's expert instructors.

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

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## **Congratulations 2020 Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship Recipients**

The Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship was established in 2006 in memory of Richard Williams, who founded YES in 1968. While he did not achieve more than an 8th grade education, Richard realized that education was the key to unlocking dreams. The Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship continues Richard's legacy by giving Boston teens the financial support to pursue a post-secondary education. We are proud to announce the 2020 Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship recipients below.



### **Rose Gould**

Boston University (Boston, MA)

Rose came to YES in 2016 and joined the Leadership Corps program. She has been a part of the youth leadership for Operation Snowsports every winter since then. Rose also served as an impact intern for two years. She is always looking for the next opportunity to be involved, and she assisted with rental shop nights throughout the Operation SnowSports season. Throughout her time at YES, Rose grew from looking up to the older volunteers to experiencing rewarding personal and professional growth as a leader and role model. Outside of YES, Rose is an active member of her school community and participated in many other extracurriculars throughout high school. Her range of experiences has demonstrated a desire to lead and care for others. Rose is attending Boston University and plans to study biology with a focus on the pre-med track. After completing college, Rose hopes to attend medical school.



### **Ginika Okoli**

University of Massachusetts Lowell (Lowell, MA)

Ginika first joined YES in 2017 and became a Leadership Corps member. As an active participant in our Outdoor Adventure Sessions and Operation Snowsports throughout the years, Ginika served as an instructor for snowboarding, and then continued on to become a member of our summer and school-year staff. Over the summer, she consistently led as a camp counselor. After plenty of experience outdoors, she continued learning with us through career exploration and college prep sessions. Ginika has become a more outgoing and adventurous person through YES and developed crucial leadership skills. Outside of YES, Ginika is a well-rounded member of her school and community through volunteering, work, and community programs. She remained active with YES throughout this previous summer even with the challenges that this year has presented. Ginika is attending University of Massachusetts Lowell and plans to study business with hopes to one day become a marketing executive.

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## **Welcome New YES Staff**

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



**Rosa Moriello**  
*Adventure Programs  
Coordinator, Up2Us -  
Coach Across America*

Rosa is originally from Connecticut. She attended Southern Connecticut State University for both her undergraduate and masters degrees. Rosa has extensive experience working with youth, including working for multiple state Parks and Recreation departments in Connecticut and summer camps. Rosa holds certifications in several outdoor activities, including kayaking and canoeing, and is a Leave No Trace master educator. Rosa says she is excited to be a part of the YES community as the Adventure Programs Coordinator and get involved with the YES Track & Field program!



**Tess Stogner**  
*Leadership Corps  
Success Coordinator,  
Mass Promise Fellow*

Tess is originally from North Carolina and studied at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Her college experience was profoundly impacted by her involvement with a campus service learning organization that taught her how to practice pairing values with action. Tess spent three summers journeying across states and continents on bikepacking trips with students through Overland Summers. Witnessing students' incredible determination and leadership inspired her to pursue work that empowers young people realize their potential. Her position as the Leadership Corps Success Coordinator at YES intersects her passion for connecting young people to meaningful service, leadership development, and experiential education.



**Emma Turcotte**  
*Youth Leadership  
Coordinator*

Emma is originally from Indiana and spent the past year completing a year as YES's Adventure Programs Coordinator through Up2Us - Coach Across America. While she was in college, Emma spent a significant amount of time in the outdoor education department which allowed her to study abroad in New Zealand and hike part of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Emma also spent several summers working at childcare centers and camps as a trip leader. Before coming to YES last fall, she spent the a year serving in an Americorps position at a non-profit loan lending organization in Boston. YES is thrilled that Emma is joining the team as a full-time staff member supporting YES teens.



**Amanda Wahlstedt**  
*College Prep  
Coordinator, Mass  
Promise Fellow*

Amanda is originally from Kentucky and recently graduated from Wellesley College where she majored in Education Studies. Amanda's background includes working with young people, writing, and marketing. Most recently, Amanda served as a Digital Marketing Intern at the MIT Press and previously served as the Storytelling Coordinator for the National Student Voice Organization. While in high school, a private college counselor worked with Amanda to research post-secondary transitions and figure out why many students like her do not go to college. Without college counseling, Amanda says she would have never known what was possible. She is excited to work with YES teens as our College Prep Coordinator to help them succeed in the same way!