



Youth Enrichment Services *December 2018 Newsletter*

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Saturday, January 5: [Operation SnowSports Begins](#) Get ready for a season filled with new experiences, new challenges, and new friends! The Operation SnowSports season kicks off in January with our first YES kids experience!

Monday, January 7: [Winter Track Program Begins](#) (Blackstone Community Center - Boston, MA) The YES Winter Indoor Track Program teaches youth skills and builds strength through running and core strengthening drills. The program aspires to inspire a lifelong appreciation and respect of healthy activities within its youth.

Thursday, January 24: [7th Annual Trivia Night](#) (Game on Fenway - Boston, MA) Join the YES Young Professionals Committee in January for a night of trivia, food, and drinks. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams. \$20 per person or \$25 at-the-door. Buy your tickets online [here](#). Please note that this event is 21+.

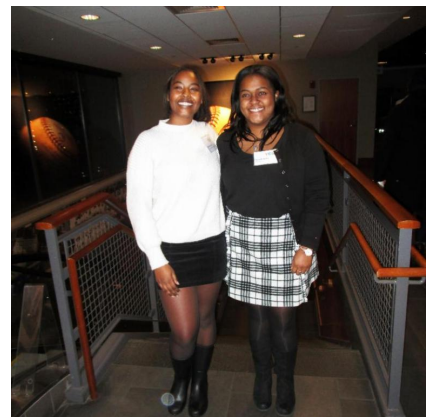
Sunday, March 10: [Mass Snow Challenge](#) (Wachusett Mountain - Princeton, MA) Join YES for a fun-filled day with great skiing and snowboarding, racing, awards, and family games to support YES's Operation SnowSports youth programs! There's a costume contest. No racing experience necessary! Prizes will also be awarded to the individuals with the most creative costumes!

Thursday, April 11: [9th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#) (Renaissance Boston Waterfront - Boston, MA) Save the date! This is YES's biggest fundraiser of the year!

YES Annual Celebration - Thank You for Joining Us!

More than 150 supporters, volunteers, and friends came together on December 3 to celebrate Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and its achievements throughout the year. The event was held at Fenway Park's State Street Pavilion. It was an especially meaningful night as the organization concluded its year-long celebration of YES's 50th Anniversary.

YES teen leader, Ammal, and YES alumni, Tyla, spoke at the event. Ammal has been involved in YES's Leadership Corps program since 2016. She says that the program has helped her grow and take on more responsibilities throughout high school. She remarked, "I truly would not be the person I am today if it weren't for YES."



YES teen, Ammal, (L) and YES alumni, Tyla (R) pose together.

Tyla is a YES alumni and recent graduate from Bentley University. She was involved in a variety of YES programs from ages 8-18 and was part of the YES Alumni Support initiative throughout her four years at college. Reflecting on what YES means to her, Tyla says that "it is a place where everyone knows you and is going to push you to be the best individual you can be."

YES parent, Janet Duval, also spoke at the event. Her daughter, Chloe, joined the YES Summer Track & Field Program when it was still very new. She was involved with summer track & field, fall cross country, and the summer GOAL program during her time as a YES youth. Today, Chloe is an assistant coach with YES Track & Field every summer. Janet believes that YES has helped shape Chloe to be the person she is today. Janet stated, "As parents we show our children patience and endurance. We give them skills, like how to be organized and show empathy. We show them and we teach them. But when one program emphasizes what we are doing in various ways, then we have to give kudos."



YES parent, Janet Duval, (R) and her daughter, Chloe, (L) pose together.

Eddie Jenkins was a special guest speaker at the event. He grew up in Boston's South End and volunteered at YES before playing professional football for the Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots. After retiring from pro-football, Eddie entered Suffolk Law School and followed a rising career track in law. Eddie is also an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School where he has taught for 15 years, as well as a Board Member of Urban Edge. Eddie gave a powerful speech that highlighted the impact YES has in the community and emphasized how important it is for youth. He is extremely supportive about the collaborative efforts of YES and Urban Edge.



Jennifer Glanville of Boston Beer Company poses with YES Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe. Boston Beer Company is the 2018 YES Champion Award recipient.

The 2018 YES Champion Award was also presented at the event. This year's recipient was Boston Beer Company. They have been providing financial and in-kind resources to YES more than 30 years, making them one of the longest and most committed supporters.

Thank you for joining us! To see more photos from the event, [click here](#) to view the album on Facebook.

YES's School-Year Partnerships Offer Students New Experiences

This fall, YES partnered with four Boston schools to give students new outdoor experiences and build their confidence. The 2018-2019 schools-year partners are: Henderson Inclusion Upper School in Dorchester; Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester; James P. Timilty Middle School in Roxbury; and Martin Luther King Jr. School in Dorchester. Each of the schools had weekly experiences for 3-5 weeks that gave their youth the opportunity to learn and grow outside of the classroom among their peers. Activities included hiking and mountain biking at Houghton's Pond; mountain biking at Brookwood Farm; outdoor rock climbing at Quincy Quarries and Hammond Pond; and indoor rock climbing at Rock Spot.

These youth had a great fall with YES, and we can't wait to get out on the slopes with them at Blue Hills Ski Area and Bretton Woods during the upcoming winter season!



Interested in learning more about school partnerships? Contact outreach@yeskids.org.

YES Receives Three-Year Grant from Boston Children's Hospital



YES recently received three years of funding from Boston Children's Collaboration for Community Health. The grant is part of Boston Children's Hospital's total commitment of \$53.4 million to support community organizations and agencies in their efforts to improve the health and well-being of children and families in Boston and across Massachusetts. Over the next 10 years, Boston Children's Hospital will distribute these funds as part of an agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need Program.

YES was one of 10 organizations funded in the Community Physical Activity, and Recreation grant category. Funds will be used to support young people served in the Outdoor Adventure and Operation SnowSports programs. In these unique sports-based youth development programs, YES encourages youth to explore the outdoors, develop leadership skills, and prepare for college while leading a healthy, active lifestyle. Read more about this transformational funding initiative [here](#).

Meet the YES 2019 Boston Marathon Team

YES received four (4) bibs this year through the John Hancock Non-profit Boston Marathon Program. We are thrilled to introduce four runners to Team YES: Geraldine Aine, Matt Chisholm, Kelsey Irwin, and Maren Tober. While they come from diverse backgrounds, they all have one thing in common: each of them has been impacted by YES in some way. This year's team is comprised of a YES parent, a volunteer, a Board of Trustees member, and a long-time YES supporter. Hear why our runners are part of Team YES:



"I am running for YES because I am a YES parent. My kids had so many of their firsts with YES, such as cross country and alpine skiing, doing the Kids Spartan Race, and so much more!"

"I remember when I first volunteered for YES. I was nervous because I was new to snow sports. There was a child who was having difficulty and I let him know it was my second week skiing - and that he could do it! We spent the morning learning how to ski and by the end of the trip, he had a new sense of confidence."

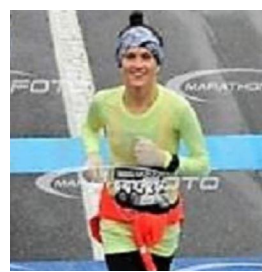
Please join us in welcoming Team YES 2019: Geraldine Aine, Matt Chisholm, Kelsey Irwin, and Maren Tober! Visit their Crowdrise pages below to support their run and read more about their personal stories. Each runner is fundraising \$10,000. [Click here to support Team YES!](#)



[Geraldine](#)



[Matt](#)



[Kelsey](#)



[Maren](#)

Give the Gift of the Outdoors to Boston Youth this Holiday Season!

- **\$25** pays for a ski helmet, bike helmet, or life vest for one child to stay safe on the slopes, on the trails, and in the water.
- **\$50** pays for one child to be active in YES's Track & Field program for two weeks.
- **\$100** pays for one child to experience skiing and snowboarding, including equipment, instruction, and transportation.
- **\$250** pays for two teens to receive college counseling, including help with essay writing, financial aid, and more.



Don't forget to make your year-end gift to YES before December 31!

**Donate
Now**

STAY CONNECTED



412 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
617-267-5877
www.yeskids.org