

YOUNG ACHIEVERS



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Young Achievers Summer Camp

Family Values: All campers enter into the Young Achievers family style setting. YALC values each child as a special gift, given the utmost love and respect daily. YALC staff and children spend quality hours daily creating a bond that is long lasting—something that transitions into the following after school program or the following summer camp experience

Summer Programs: All children benefit from the structure and positive peer interaction that summer camps provide once classes have ended for the school year. Summer camp is a great opportunity that is a valuable experience for children whether it is a luxury or a necessity.

Experience success and become more confident – Camp helps children build self-confidence and self-esteem by removing the kind of academic, athletic and social competition that shapes their lives at school. With its non-competitive activities and diverse opportunities to succeed, camp life is a real boost for young people. There's accomplishment every day.

YALC focuses on academics, sports, life skills, music, drama, arts & crafts, and technology. Summer camp is where children often discover their passions and talents, and is where the underachieving child suddenly takes a leadership role.

At the end of the summer, campers are ready for school because they have mastered new skills and have learned to be a part of a team.





OST Summer on The Plaza

Out-of-School Time (OST) is an initiative sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, which offers programs for young people to participate in after-school, on the weekends and during the summer. The goal is to provide Philadelphia's youth with access to musical, artistic, athletic and pedagogic activities that promote education, safety and development. In its second year, OST Summer on the Plaza provides an arena for children to express themselves, and work collaboratively on a performance piece, while drawing attention to Philadelphia's OST Programs. (phila.gov/dhs)



2011 YALC Summer Camp youth from Finletter and Creighton sites performed during the OST Summer on The Plaza event.

Project Based Learning & The PBL Cup Award!

Project-based learning, or PBL, is the use of in-depth and rigorous classroom projects to facilitate learning and assess student competence. PBL was promoted by the Buck Institute for Education in the late 1990s, in response to school reform efforts of that time. Project-based learning is an instructional method that provides students with complex tasks based on challenging questions or problems that involve the students' problem solving, decision making, investigative skills, and reflection that includes teacher facilitation, but not direction. PBL is focused on questions that encourage students to encounter the central concepts and principles of a subject through a hands-on approach. Students form their own investigation of a guiding question,



YALC youth Gianna M. & Angel S. explain their PBL project to Tom Sheaffer Director of Policy & Evaluation/Fiscal Director Deputy Mayor's Office of Health & Opportunity

allowing students to develop valuable research skills as students engage in design, problem solving, decision making, and investigative activities. Through Project-based learning, students learn from these experiences and apply them to the world outside their classroom. PBL is a teaching technique that promotes different practices, such as new learning habits, emphasizing creative thinking skills by allowing students to find that there are many ways to solve a problem. The core idea of project-based learning is that real-world problems capture students' interest and provoke serious thinking as the students acquire and apply new knowledge in a problem-solving context.

Young Achievers adapted the PBL curriculum to everyday programming in 2008. Since the beginning PBL has offered our youth new and exciting ways to learn. In 2011 Philadelphia OST announced they would be hosting the first ever PBL Cup. YALC youth immediately got to work on their projects. Youth at the Finletter summer site put together a project based on nutrition and fitness. They focused on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the advantages of physical activity on a daily basis. They created their own work out routines, balanced meal plans and made healthy snacks for their fellow campers every week.

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Their project presentation included a large poster display of their data and project activities as well as an original dance performance.

Youth from the Young Achievers Summer Camp have participated in the PBL Cup every year it has been held and have placed 2nd in 2013 and 3rd in 2011!

This year's Summer PBL will focus on Nutrition for the 5-6 year old group, Math for the 7-9 year old group and Horticulture for the 10 and older group.



YALC youth won 3rd place in the first ever city wide PBL Summer Cup Competition in 2011! Their project focus was Domestic animals and Wild animals- Similarities and Differences as well as how they affect our community.



YALC youth won 2nd place in the 3rd annual PBL Summer Cup Competition in 2013! Their project focus was on entrepreneurship. They created their business, marketed their product and tracked their profits and losses.

Workshops and Guest Speakers

Young Achievers highly values community partnerships. Each year YALC utilizes community resources and leaders to create fun, interactive and educational workshops and events for our youth. These workshops offer life skills, real world knowledge and the opportunity for personal growth and development in an inviting and inspirational way.

Past workshops have included Drug Prevention, Fire Safety and Prevention, Self Esteem, Body Awareness, Good Touch/Bad Touch, Roots & Wings Storytelling, Chess lessons, Bicycle and Street Safety, Versatile Dance Company, Creative Writing with TEOP, Dr. Veronica's Health and Wellness, Vision Boards with life coach Russ Barrens, Dental Hygiene workshops, PNC Financial Guidance and Saving for Youth, visits from The eagle Book Mobile and much more.

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Youth grades K-3 enjoy a chess lesson from Chess Times.



Dr. Veronica speaks to YALC youth about the importance of healthy and positive life choices.



Denise Valentine from Roots & Wings shared interactive stories & tales from African cultures with youth at Young Achievers.



Ms. Sykes from WOAR poses for a photo with YALC youth after completing 3 age appropriate workshops on body awareness, respect and safety.



The Philadelphia Fire Department taught youth what to do to prevent fires in their home and how to react in a fire or dangerous situation.



The Philadelphia Eagle Book Mobile and Storybook Man visited youth and presented each child with a new book, book mark and signed Eagles poster.



*Young Achievers youth took part in the worldwide Read For The Record event in 2010 and enjoyed reading *The Snowy Day* by Jack Ezra Keats with Tom Sheaffer.*

Philadelphia Health Centers Week, Art Poster Contest

Every year the city of Philadelphia and the Health Federation of Philadelphia holds an art contest for youth during National Health Center Week. Youth are invited to create posters depicting health centers in their community, the people who work at the health centers, visits to the center or the different people who go to the health center. After the contest they announce winners and present awards during an event that celebrates the accomplishments of the Philadelphia area's Federally Qualified Health Centers and recognize the achievements of the young people who have created outstanding artwork about community health centers.

For the past four years at least two youth from YALC have placed in the Philadelphia Health Week Art Poster Contest.



Above: Khyyan R. receives his award during the Health Week Art Poster Contest ceremony held at City Hall.



Above: Nathan T. receives an award for his poster with the support of his family. Below: Vehar P. poses next to his poster which says "Health Centers put the Unity in Community"



Above: YALC youth volunteer Miriam receives an award for her poster titled "The Root of Our Community" Below: YALC CEO and youth pose next the 1st place winning poster with a representative from the Health Federation of Philadelphia.





Day To Day Programming

YALC Summer Camp has been designed to promote children's talents through performing arts, dance and movement, sportsmanship, dramatic play, self-expressive drawing and painting, multicultural folklore, storytelling and hands-on educational experiences. During this 6 week program children learn to appreciate diversity, cultures and traditions around the world.



Above: YALC staff and youth have story time together!

Top Right: Youth create posters that represent who they are.

Bottom Right: Youth lead a game of Duck, Duck, Goose! Youth lead games give children the opportunity to take on leadership roles.

Below: A YALC youth enjoys a musical performance after getting her face painted at YALC Carnival Day!



During the summer camp program educational components such as, PBL and hands on science experiments are implemented as well as promoting positive child development through life skills lessons, culinary lessons, social interactions, early preventative education and interactive workshops.

Children's gross motor skills are supported during summer programming by the variety to physical activities offered both indoors and outdoors. Children are encouraged to take part in different activities including sports such as soccer, volleyball, basketball and baseball as well as general school yard games and activities such as relay races, hula-hoops, jumping rope and frisbee.

Children enrolled in summer camp also enjoy weekly trips to national parks, theater productions, local historical sites, recreational parks, amusement parks, educational centers and more.



Previous trips have included Historical Philadelphia, The Please Touch Museum, Storybook Musical Theater, The Franklin Institute, The Philadelphia Zoo, AMC Movie Theater, The Natural History Museum, Eastern State Penitentiary, NBC 10 studios, Bowling, Roller Skating, The Adventure Aquarium, Sesame Place, Washington's Crossing Historic National Park, Neshaminy State Park, Freedom Theater, Clementon Park, The Spirit of Philadelphia, Sahara Sam's indoor Water park, The Funplex and Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park.



Closing Ceremony

At the end of each summer program YALC youth and staff celebrate another great year! Youth perform skits, musical presentation, dances and dramatic performances for parents and community. YALC also throws a small good-bye party for the youth to close up the summer program.



Above: YALC staff and youth perform an original praise dance choreographed by Mrs. Kia

Top Right: Youth celebrate during the end of summer party- that year's theme was "Masquerade Madness"

Center Right: Our youngest campers perform in costumes created by YALC youth and staff.

Bottom Right: YALC youth perform a "STOMP" inspired percussion piece led by Mr. Cesar.

2014 Scheduled Trips



Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park



Sahara Sam's Oasia



The Spirit of Philadelphia



The FunPlex!



Clementon Park

YALC Youth Development Professionals

Young Achievers employs a diverse group of professionals from many different backgrounds and cultures. These dedicated and caring individuals each submit criminal background clearances, child abuse clearances and FBI record clearances before beginning employment with YALC. As soon as a new employee is hired they complete a 6 week new staff orientation worth 15 professional development hours with DPW. Every staff member also completes Fire Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Shelter In Place, First Aid and CPR trainings and are required to keep all training certificates current during employment.

In addition YALC actively seeks professional development opportunities on an on going basis to assist staff as they grow and develop.



Above: Staff create the YALC instead of the "YMCA"!



Above: Staff take part in a listening and team building exercise.



Above: Staff learn different and creative ways to engage shy children in group activities.

Below: YALC Operations Manager, Ivo Ney Cuervo speaks on the importance of safety and how to react in a dangerous situation.

