

YOUNG ACHIEVERS



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Young Achievers Gets Involved In the Community

Lights On After School is an annual event which takes place each October. Over one million Americans and more than 7,500 communities nationwide celebrate the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Young Achievers has taken part in this nationwide movement since October 2006. YALC staff and youth rallied with other Philadelphia area providers on the steps of The Franklin Institute to draw attention to the budget cuts on afterschool programs across the city. YALC has also held on site celebrations for Lights On After School and in 2011 youth traveled to the Thomas Paine Plaza to perform for the Mayor and celebrate as Philadelphia received a \$5,000 MEGAWATT award from jcpenny and announce October 20th as Philadelphia's official Lights On Afterschool day.



Above: Congratulations came from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter after YALC youth performed at the 2011 Lights On After School Event on the Thomas Paine Plaza. The youth presented him with a YALC t-shirt.



Above: From left to Right YALC youth had the opportunity to meet Tom Sheaffer from the Deputy Mayors Office during the rally; Young Achievers youth pose for a picture after celebrating their performances; YALC youth where able to meet with and receive praise from Richard Cohen, President & CEO of Public Health Management Corporation.



Left: Youth and staff at the YALC Finletter site celebrate Lights On After School by throwing a dance party for family and community members.



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 First Ever 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 Creighton Summer Camp site decided to learn about animals. They researched domestic, wild, farm and service animals in their communities. They used the internet, books, community visitors and hands on research to collect their data. Visitors and hands on research included Project Troop Dogs, a non-profit which benefits service animals in the military and a guided tour of WB Saul agricultural high school in Philadelphia. They listed the pros and cons of having each animal in their community and created two 3-D dioramas. The first showed animals in a farm setting and the second showed animals in a rainforest setting. Their presentation included their dioramas, a large poster display, papier-mâché animal masks and reports on each animal they learned about.

Part science fair and part talent show, the PBL Summer Cup featured a variety of project topics. Over 200 students and staff members from 25 OST programs participated in the event. Judges came from organizations across the city, including the



Creighton youth won 3rd place in the first ever city wide PBL Summer Cup Competition in 2011!

United Way, the Franklin Institute, Foundations Inc. and the City of Philadelphia. **YALC Creighton youth won 3rd place!** Other winners included Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, who used the Summer Olympics as a vehicle to explore the cultures of countries around the world and Institute for the Development of African-American Youth (IDAAAY) OST program at Wagner Middle School who completed a project about the relationship between human beings and the natural world.

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.

Pictures Continued on page 4



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

Youth grades 4-6 take part in a workshop led by Life Coach and Mentor Russ Barrens





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.



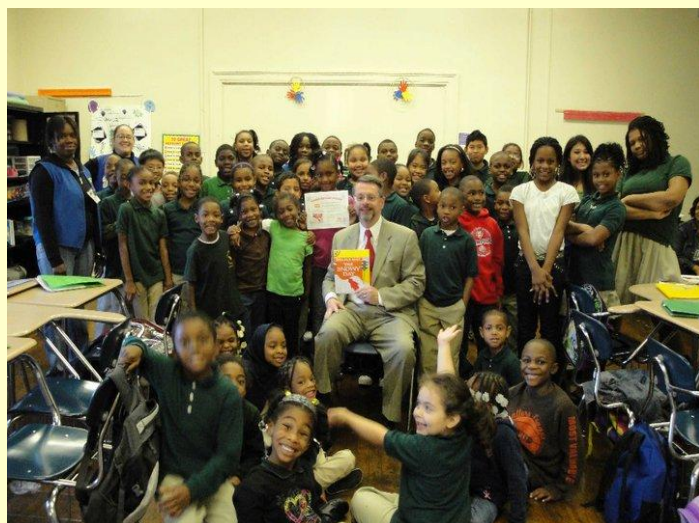
Ms. Sykes from WOAR poses for a photo with YALC youth after completing 3 age appropriate workshops on body awareness, respect and safety.



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: Young Achievers President & CEO Gloria Navas-Stuhl with our youth as they receive their awards.



Above: Anjanay S. receives an award for her poster with the support of her 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.



School Year Programming

Homework Completion

YALC calls on parents to work as a TEAM when it comes to your child's everyday academics.

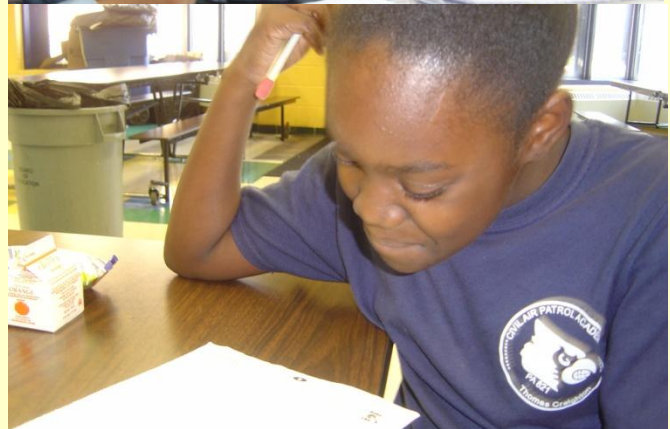
Young Achievers believes that homework is a very important follow-up of your child's daily lesson. Young Achievers staff is here to facilitate and assist your child with their homework comprehension and completion.

For the academic success of your child, parents are expected to review their child's assignments daily to ensure assignment deadlines are being met and also to keep aware of child's academic improvement throughout the year.

For the success of your child YALC maintains a staff to youth ratio of 1:12 and/or lower. Young Achievers will work with children in smaller group settings to focus on specific areas of concentration where children may need extra help.

For example youth in the same grade may need to prepare for a test or may need some extra help understanding multiplication, telling time, counting money, reading map keys, measuring angles or completing constructive responses.

YALC staff are committed to partnering with parents and guardians to improve the educational potential of every child by working together to cooperatively raise student achievement levels.



Crafts, Games and Socialization

At Young Achievers youth take part in a variety of enriching activities that stimulate their body and mind and help build social skills.

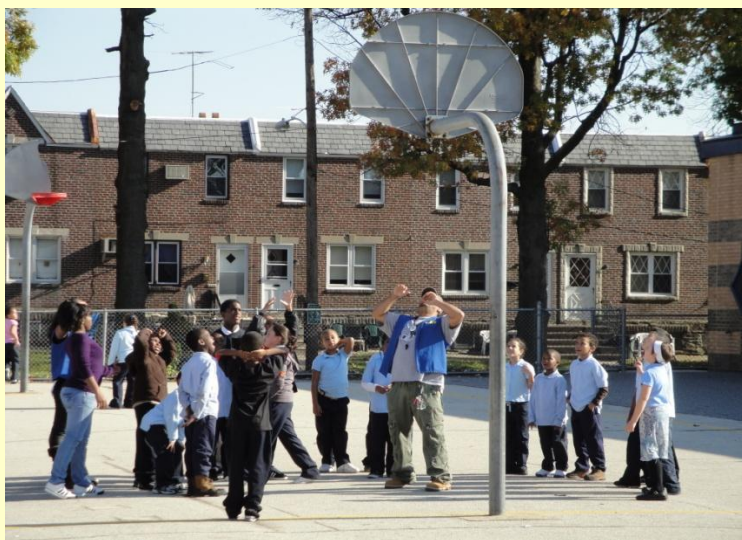
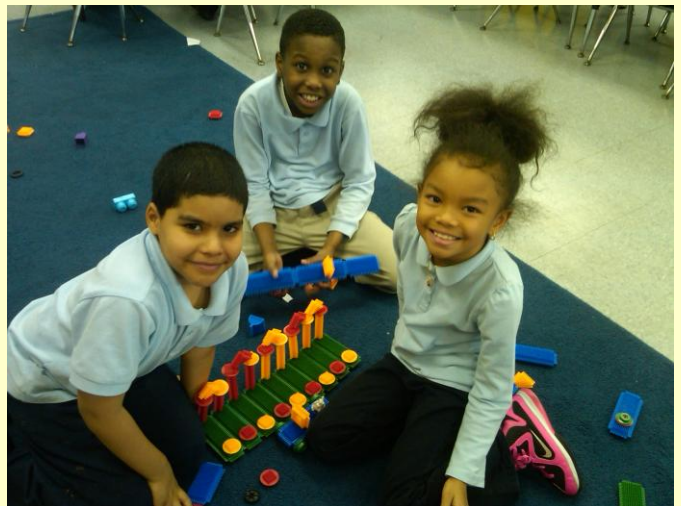
Crafting is one of the most interesting hobbies one can enjoy. Many adults enjoy different types of crafts, such as sewing, knitting, scrap booking and so forth. However, crafts should not be enjoyed by only the adults; children should also be encouraged from a young age to be involved in craft making. Children can reap many benefits from making crafts. By making crafts, children can build their imagination, improve fine motor skills and find hidden talent. This is all very important for the child's development and self esteem. Apart from having endless fun, children get the chance to express themselves creatively and achieve a sense of accomplishment.

Playing games is an important activity for every child's physical, social and mental development. Educational games are important for keeping children interested in learning, for example some games come with educational skills and academic concepts, such as spelling, math or problem solving. Through games children can also learn about sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership and encouragement.

Games create courage and inspire children to do their best.



***Above:** YALC youth at our Finletter site cool off with a friendly game of Water Balloon Toss **Below:** YALC youth at our Lowell Site work together to build a city out of blocks.*



YALC youth at our Carnell Site take part in a game of basketball and practice their free throws.

Socialization refers to the terms by which social and cultural continuity is attained. Socialization is the means by which children begin to acquire the skills necessary to perform as a functioning member of their society, and is the most influential learning process one can experience. By encouraging youth to take part in a variety of social activities such as team games, group discussions and activities YALC encourages youth to develop positive social skills which are an essential part of being a productive active member of the community and will help them achieve their goals.



Summer 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 7 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 prepare a short skit they wrote and directed themselves!

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 are implemented as well as promoting positive child development through life skills 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 a local swimming pool, national parks, theater productions, local historical sites, recreational parks, amusement parks, educational centers and more.



***Top Left:** YALC youth pet jelly fish at the Adventure Aquarium.*

***Top Right:** Youth show off their upper body strength at a local playground.*

***Bottom Right:** YALC staff and youth cool off on a hot day with a slip n' slide and some friendly water games!*

***Left:** YALC Executive Director, Ivy Johnson, staff and youth visit a live taping of the 10 Show! at NBC studios and pose for a photo with host Bill Henley.*



YALC Youth Development Professionals

Young Achievers employees 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.

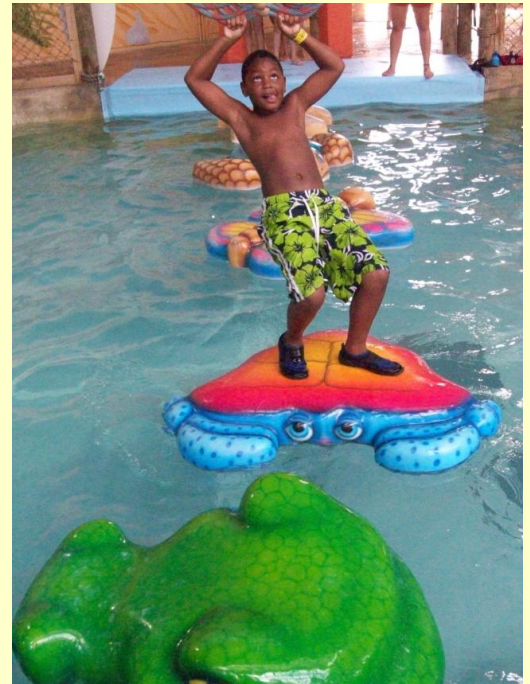


- Late up to 20 minutes
- Failure to provide proper notice of absence or lateness (pending circumstances)
- 1 point
- Late more than 20 minutes
- Unexcused absence
- Any Employee Warning Notice (written)

Photo Gallery



***Above:** Staff and students at the YALC Lowell Site take a break from homework to play in the "Secret garden".*



***Above:** YALC youth Amir W. tests his balance during a trip to Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park.*

***Below:** Youth enjoy the bumper boats at the Funplex! In New Jersey.*



***Above:** YALC visits Historic Philadelphia and enjoys a guided tour of the Constitution Center.*

***Right:** NBC's The 10 Show host, Bill Henley (pictures with YALC Program Coordinator, Rachael Capasso) visits Young Achievers Summer Camp Closing Ceremony and supported our youth during their various performances.*

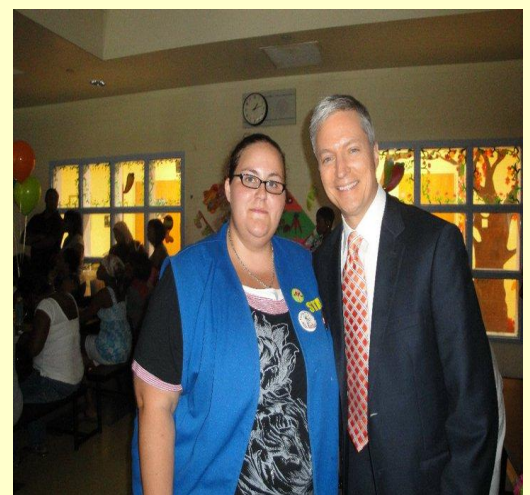




Photo Gallery



Left: Young Achievers President & CEO, Gloria Navas-Stuhl
And PA Governor Ed Rendell at the annual Philadelphia
Childcare Provider Luncheon.



Right: YALC youth at a New Orleans themed
dance planned and organized by the older youth
at the Creighton Summer Camp Site.

Below: YALC youth at the Finletter Summer
Camp site perform an original play during the
closing ceremony.





Photo Gallery



Left: YALC Creighton youth create posters about eating healthy as part of PBL project on nutrition.



Right: YALC Finletter youth take a break from their relay race to pose for a photo with staff.



Left: Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter visits Young Achievers Finletter Site

