

YOUNG ACHIEVERS SUMMER CAMP 2018



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What You'll Find Inside

Inside this publication you will find some of fondest Summer Camp 2018 memories, learn about our youth and share our experience!



At Young Achievers the fun starts early and learning never stops!



Our Mission & History



Young Achievers was founded and incorporated as a non-profit organization on October 20, 2000 by YALC President & CEO Gloria Navas-Santos. Young Achievers is family owned and operated;

Mrs. Navas-Santos' daughter, Ivy Johnson is Young Achievers Executive Director and her son Ivo Cuervo is our Director of Operations.

Young Achievers mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment through a quality educational program which promotes children's physical, emotional, social and cognitive skills.

All campers enter into the Young Achievers family style setting. Young Achievers 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.

Why Summer Camp Is Important

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.

Thank you!

Young Achievers wanted to take a moment to say thank you and show you how the funding and support we receive from PHMC and DHS makes an impact.

We figure the best way to say Thank You is to share our summer experience with you, so we have pulled together some of our favorite Summer 2018 memories.

Enjoy!



YALC youth and parents preparing to board The Spirit of Philadelphia.

Photo Credit: Gloria N-S.

YALC Summer Camp 2018 Quick Recap

- Operated for 7 full weeks
- Reached enrollment of 340+ campers ages 4 to 13
- Has a waiting list of 118
- Hosted 16 Work Ready Youth
- Took 8 full day field trips
- Offered hands on Art & Music lessons for all age groups
- Offered engaging STEM challenges daily
- Hosted 4 Water Festivals on site
- Hosted a closing ceremony showcasing our youths many talents



Water Festivals!

Ask anyone what's one of their favorite things about summer and you will hear about water play! Weather it be a fire hydrant, a family or public pool, sprinklers, water balloons, water slides or simply playing with the hose in the backyard- we all love water play! Unfortunately, being located in a public school with 340+ campers makes daily or even weekly trips to the pool a bit difficult, so YALC decided to bring the water fun to us!

Every other week YALC turned the yard at Carnell into the ultimate water play yard with a 20 foot double lane water slide, a bounce castle, a 5 in 1 combo unit which included an additional 10 foot water slide, water balloons, water blasters and a sprinkler!



Trip Day!

YALC understands the importance of educational field trips, and during the school year we make sure our youth see museums and horticultural exhibits, but during the summer our trips are more entertainment oriented. Please don't misunderstand, there is absolutely an education component on every trip we take.

Here are some examples:

Creating a hypothesis based on speed and gravity: "How fast do you think we can get down this water slide?"

Simple multiplication: "How many tokens do we need for each person in our group to play 5 games in the arcade?"

There is also an opportunity for practicing and enhancing upon life skills– sharing, compromise, budgeting, long term planning and scheduling (to make sure we get all the good rides done before it gets too crowded).

This past summer our youth attended 8 fun filled trips!

- The Funplex!
- Dave & Busters
- Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park
- Clementon Park & Splash World!
- Sesame Place
- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor
- Sahara Sam's Indoor Water Park
- The Spirit of Philadelphia











Riding The Bus!

Of course, everyone loved the trips, but we also loved getting there! It took 6, sometimes 7 buses, to transport all our youth and campers to our trip destinations. Those bus rides were a time to talk with friends, tell jokes and sing! The ride back was always a tad quieter. 😊

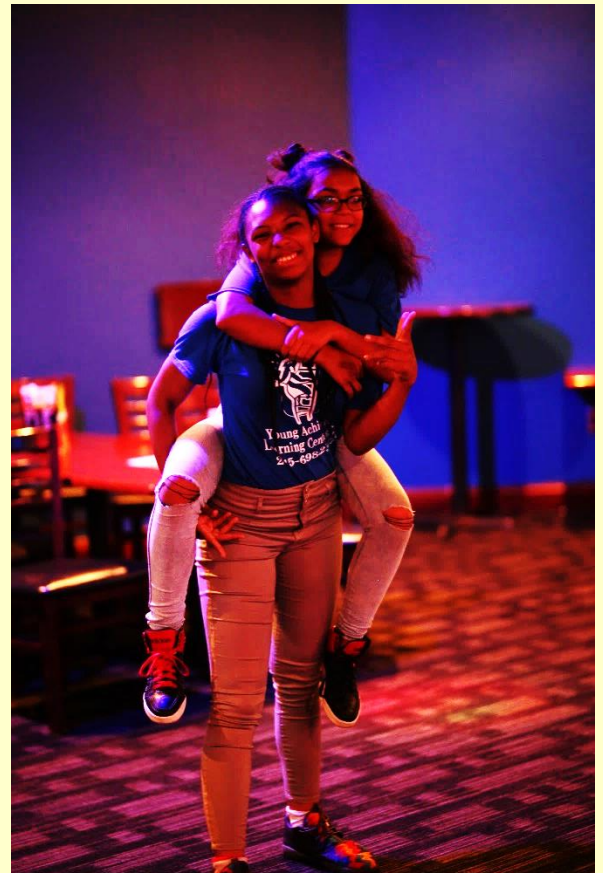


Friends & Family!

One of the most beautiful things about camp is the feeling of comradery, the feeling of trust and belonging for every camper, family member and staff person who enters our doors.



*a summer i'll
always remember
with people i'll
never forget*





The best times are
always found when
Friends & Family
gather round.





best friends



On Site Activities

Crafts!

Crafts are a great way for youth to express their creativity, their emotions and their individuality. Whether using paints, markers, puff paints, craft sticks, glitter or the age-old classic- paper and crayons our youth were free to express themselves daily.

Most importantly youth art was always displayed! It was used to decorate walls and doorways and display tables were set up in the hallway, so parents and family members could see and appreciate their child's artistic expression.



Music!

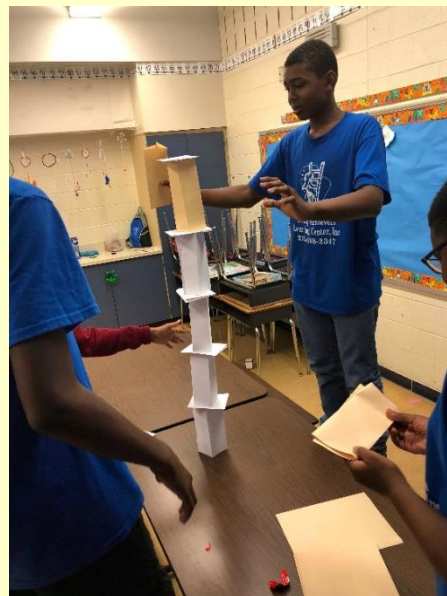
YALC strives to develop youths physical, mental and emotional growth. Music helps youth relate feelings into sound. For the past 3 years YALC has worked with Independent Rock founder Mike Long to offer hands on and engaging music lessons for our youth. Youth of all ages had the opportunity to learn drums, piano and guitar, although drums are clearly the favorite (kids like banging on things)!

Youth learned basic rhythm, notes and cords, how to stay on beat and how to play music as a collective. All their hard work was showcased during the 2018 Summer Ceremony where youth performed 2 entire songs, offering vocals and playing instruments! They are rock stars in the making!



S.T.E.A.M.!

The educational side of summer camp, every camper and counselors dream! Ok, maybe not so much, the reality is once youth hear “educational” or “lesson” during the summer they instinctually let out the longest and loudest groan you have ever heard. It is our job as educators to make learning exciting! YALC staff did a great job of this all summer. Young youth had the opportunity to do many hands-on science activities such as making slime and volcanos, while older youth learned math, money management and budgeting by creating a store and financial system. Youth applied for jobs, got paid weekly and used their money to actual goods. Our oldest youth completed 3 STEAM challenges every week such as duplicating the game of JENGA using only folded paper, making a bridge strong enough to support 5LBS using only pasta and string and building a walking robot out of a soda can and battery pack. Additional activities included STEM challenge sets and kits by ThnkFun, K’Nex, Engino, Snap Circuit, 4m, ZOOB, LEGO and ETI Toys.



Mosaics



A mosaic is a piece of art or image made from the assembling of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. This year YALC youth learned all about this style of art and created their own with the guidance of Philadelphia Artists Mike Long & Lauren NeFesha.

In the past YALC has tried new and different art programs. We want our youth to have access to express themselves in a variety of medias. Each year the art program is good, the campers enjoy it and we are happy. But this year.... this year was amazing! We partnered with Lauren & Mike to pilot a new program and it was a tremendous success! Youth learned so much and most importantly they were able to express themselves in new ways! Mosaics were created by youth of all ages. They started with a simple drawing divided into sections and colored, then they created the same drawing with patterns, then cut paper and eventually were working with tile and grout.

By the end of camp, we had the most amazing photo frames, patio stones, paper weights, bird houses and self-portraits!

Art works were frames and displayed during the closing ceremony before going home with their talented creators.



Physical Play!

Physical activity is a must during summer camp! This summer our athletic coordinators organized soccer matches, basketball, relays, volleyball and we even took a swing at tennis! Of course, the outdoors have endless activities to offer but what do you do on those extra hot days? On those rainy days? On those lets stay indoors days? You dance!

YALC offered a variety of indoor physical activities during camp from Xbox Kinect- Dance, Dance Revolution to yoga and more!



Summer Ceremony

Young Achievers 18th annual closing summer ceremony was fabulous! Despite an a torrential rain that brought down a tree, destroyed our refreshments, soaked everyone, and ruined Ms. Tina's new outfit, our youth performed at 100%! 8 dances, 2 musical performances, dramatic interpretation, powerful messages of love and tolerance, friendship, joy and inclusion! That's what our families got to witness on that stage! Thank you to everyone who was involved!

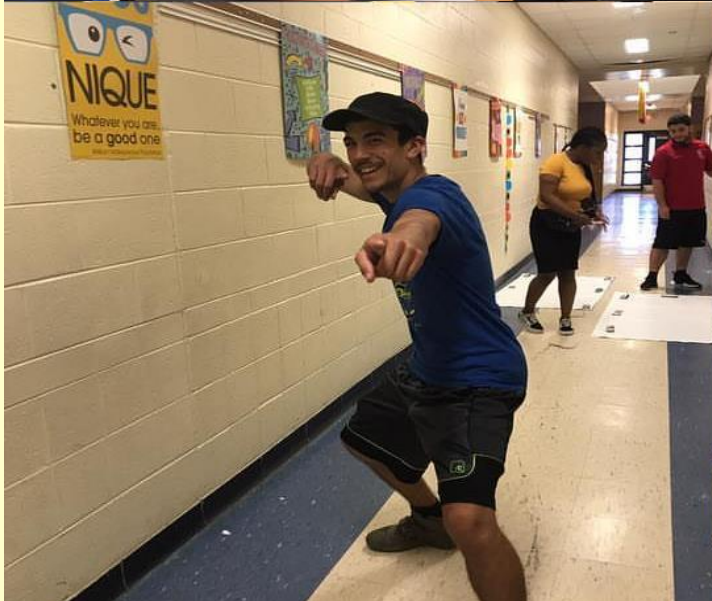


Youth Volunteers

Every year YALC has about 8 or youth volunteers. These dedicated young people do so much for YALC! They help in so many ways– they organize supplies, prepare snack, serve meals, put together equipment, keep our facility clean, greet parents and youth, assist in group activities and help monitor special events– just to name a few. Some of our volunteers have been with YALC since they were knee high to a grasshopper and some are completely new to the program.

This year YALC partnered with the Work Ready program and was the proud host to 16 youth ready workers!





YALC Youth Development Professionals

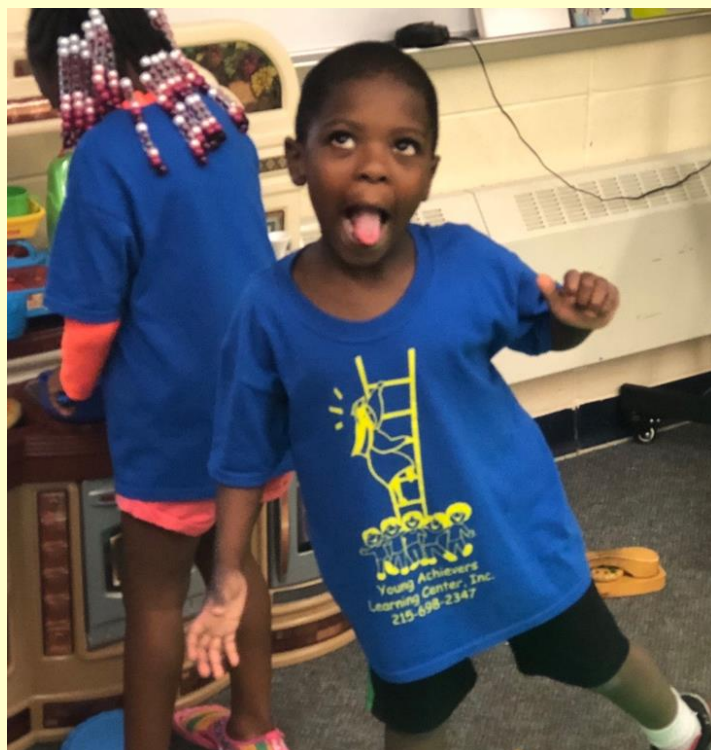
Young Achievers employees a diverse group of professionals from many different backgrounds and cultures. These dedicated and caring individuals each submit criminal background clearances, child abuse clearances and FBI record clearances before beginning employment with YALC. As soon as a new employee is hired they complete a 6 hour new staff orientation as well as 2 weeks on site training. 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.



CLASS ROOM *shenanigans*

Sometimes you just have to be
silly, let loose and smile!



Playtime Playtime



A Smile Says It All



A note from the editor: Any and all grammatical errors and mis-spellings in this publication have been done on purpose. Our older youth will review this later and make corrections as part of a grammar exercise.