

Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative (PYSC) Overview

The Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative (PYSC) is a pioneer in the country. It connects, coordinates, and supports Philadelphia organizations that use sports to benefit children and youth, particularly young people from under-resourced environments. PYSC is a collective of Members, Partners, and other constituents that nurture character-building and life skills within the framework of healthy physical development.

Vision and Mission

Vision: All Philadelphia area children and youth will have access to high quality sports programs through which they experience physical fitness, academic achievement, and personal development.

Mission: To support Philadelphia area non-profit youth sports organizations and enhance the services they provide to underserved youth.

Administration and Infrastructure

PYSC is co-administered by the Out-of-School Time Resource Center and The Palmer Group. To become official affiliates of PYSC, Member agencies must 1) oversee and implement youth sports programs, with a primary focus on positive youth development; 2) serve children and youth from multiple Philadelphia neighborhoods; 3) work with populations from low-income and otherwise under-resourced communities; and 4) have 501(c)3 status, or be formally affiliated with an organization that has 501(c)3 status. Members and are listed on the PYSC website and participate in special PYSC activities, partnerships, fundraising initiatives, and decision-making processes.

Programs & Resources

Youth Sports Networking Seminars are held bi-monthly, are open to the public, and include panel discussions and networking opportunities related to youth sports programming. Recent panel topics have included “Standards for Youth Fitness and Nutrition,” “Family Involvement in Youth Sports,” and “Financial Support for Youth Sports Programs.” The Seminars are designed to provide skills and knowledge that are immediately applicable to the workplace; cultivate relationships and partnerships that extend beyond the sessions; and develop a supportive community of peers and professionals. The Seminars are held at different Members’ and Partners’ facilities, and attract an average of 50 individuals per session.

The PYSC Website describes PYSC, its history, its purpose, and its Members and Partners. The site also includes information about upcoming Networking Seminars, as well as minutes from previous sessions. The site houses a growing Resource Library that contains youth sports documents pertaining to General Information, Benefits, Youth Sports in Out-of-School Time, Coaches and Coaching, and Parents & Families. Lastly, the PYSC website lists local, regional, and national organizations that cover a broad range of youth sports topics. These agencies’ websites provide articles, documents, research studies, networking opportunities, membership options, and other useful resources.

Special Projects have included opportunities to partner on a collective youth outcomes database; to work with the US Attorney’s Office on juvenile justice programming; to develop curriculum with and field project projects for Wharton graduate students; and to collaborate with Drexel University on a multi-sport outreach initiative in the Mantua section of West Philadelphia. These projects lend themselves to the collective resources, networks, experience, and passion of PYSC’s youth sports organizations.

More Information

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