



## Boston Youth Sports News

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January 18, 2011

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### Boston Members Event, Up2Us

Samantha Blanchard, Boston Up2Us Coordinator

Up2Us has created regional coordinator positions in multiple cities to better connect youth to local opportunities, build the network of youth sports organizations and provide information on available Up2Us resources. Boston Up2Us Coordinator Samantha Blanchard will be hosting the first of a series of events for youth organizations to network and learn more about a topic of interest on **February 9th**. The upcoming meeting will give members a chance to meet the new Coordinator, and hear more about Up2Us resources.



For more information, please contact Samantha Blanchard at [sblanchard@up2us.org](mailto:sblanchard@up2us.org) or call 617.879.2171.

### Jump Boston Double Dutch Pilot League a Success

As announced earlier in 2010, a collaboration of youth sports organizations created the Jump Boston Double Dutch league for BPS middle school girls. For those of you who are less familiar with Double Dutch, it is a jump rope sport where at least three players at a time are involved in the activity of two long jump ropes being turned in opposite directions with one or more jumpers jumping rope. The pilot league was a great success with nine teams and over 200 students participating!

The league ran from October through December and culminated in a Double Dutch tournament on December 18th. This tournament included competition by single athletes and doubles teams who showed their skills in the following categories: compulsory, speed, and freestyle. Athletes involved in the league were able to improve both their life skills and physical conditioning through their participation. Whitney Post, Director of GoGirlGo! Boston, was a big supporter of this league and spoke highly of the outcomes: "The girls in the programs have had transformative experiences and performed at high levels throughout the city." Along with GoGirlGo!, other league collaborators included BPS Athletic Departments, Dream Big!, The Red Auerbach Youth Foundation (RAYF), Playball! Foundation, Northeastern University's Sports in Society, and BYSI.

Through hard work, these organizations have set the stage for continuing to increase the

number of sports opportunities available for middle school girls. After such a great pilot year, the league organizers are already looking forward to expanding and reaching more students next year!

## New Link Highlight: Let's Move: Toolkit for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations

First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! campaign has released a [toolkit](#) designed to support faith-based and neighborhood organizations in their community leadership roles. The goal of the Let's Move! campaign is to make a positive impact on our nation's children so that they reach adulthood at a healthy weight. This movement is enacted through the following pillars: (1) empowering parents and caregivers, (2) providing healthy food in schools, (3) improving access to healthy and affordable foods, and (4) increasing physical activity levels.

Let's Move! recognizes the unique role that faith-based and neighborhood organizations play in this movement, and therefore this toolkit provides guidelines for these organizations to promote the four pillars of action. In the toolkit are step-by-step instructions for taking action in each of the four areas, such as creating a community cookbook, participating in the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award, or partnering with schools and other local organizations. Check out the toolkit to find ideas that resonate most with your group or organization and become a part of this great national movement!

[Read more about Let's Move!](#)

## Grant and Funding Listings

### Highlights

[Kids Run the Nation Fund, Road Runners Club of America](#), 3/1

The Kids Run the Nation Fund is designed to provide needed resources to develop and maintain youth running programs across the country so as to provide opportunities to address the on-going inactivity and obesity crisis facing our nation's youth. The [RRCA: Kids Run the Nation Program](#) is a multi-week, gender neutral, youth running program designed for children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. The RRCA's vision is to see a locally-managed, youth running program in every grade school in America.

For the past 4 years the RRCA has granted \$5,000 annually to youth running programs across the country. Starting this year (2011), the RRCA Board will provide two rounds of funding – in the spring and fall. The spring application deadline is **March 1st**, and the fall application deadline is **September 1st**. The application is planned to be launched this month.

### Upcoming Deadlines

- > [Amelia Peabody Foundation](#), 1/25
- > [Jane's Trust](#), 1/25
- > [Cabot Family Charitable Trust](#), 2/1
- > [Paul and Edith Babson Foundation](#), 2/6
- > [Change the Game for Women in Sport, Changemakers + Nike](#), 2/11

To find these listings and over 200 others, go to the link below and scroll alphabetically or use the keyword search and type in the organization name.

[BYSI Funding Database](#)

## Reminder: 2011 Field & Facility Access

Below are reminders of a few key dates for field and facility access across the Boston area. Don't forget to make your reservations soon!

### [City of Boston](#)

- Athletic application deadline: **February 1**
- Special event application deadline: **March 1**
- Learn more about available [facilities](#) or the [application](#) process.

### [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation \(DCR\)](#)

- Seasonal reservations for fall: applications received between **March 1-April 15**
- Single, daily-use reservations: spring/summer requests received after **February 1**, and fall requests received after **May 1**
- Read more here about the [application process](#) or the use policies specific to [Teddy Ebersol Field](#).

[Learn more about Boston's field and facility access](#)

## Jobs, Trainings and Events

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### **JOBS**

#### *YOUTH SPORT POSITIONS*

- > Athletic Assistant, BCYF Shelburne Comm. Center
- > Athletic Assistant, BCYF Holland Comm. Center
- > Site Director (Dorchester), Courageous Sailing
- > Swim Instructors, Hyde Park YMCA
- > Program Manager, MassBike
- > Youth Sports instructor, Oaks Square YMCA
- > Boston Elementary School Program Coordinator, Playworks
- > Lifeguard, West Roxbury YMCA

#### *VOLUNTEER*

- > Program Administration Intern, Girls LEAP
- > Little League Baseball Coaches, Hill House, Inc.
- > Volunteer Mentor Coach, Title IX Girls Running Club

Click here for more details about the listed [Job Opportunities](#).

### **TRAINING/EVENTS**

#### *TRAINING/EVENT TITLE*

- > Up2Us Convening, 2/9

*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT*

- > Creating a Fund Development Plan, 1/20
- > Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies-Call for Abstracts, 2/7
- > Afterschool Works: Afterschool and ELO Advocacy Day, 2/10
- > Advanced Facilitation, 2/17
- > Leadership and the Adaptive Organization

Send us your upcoming trainings and events so we can post them for FREE in our newsletter and on our website! Email [Janice M. Epstein](mailto:Janice.M.Epstein)  
[Detailed Training and Event Information](#)

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The Boston Youth Sports Initiative (BYSI) promotes youth sports as a positive youth development and physical fitness approach. Working with and for Boston's urban youth sports programs and supporters, BYSI encourages, strengthens, and builds network connections, with the goals of improved information sharing, quality, scale, and sustainability in the sector. BYSI is a strategic initiative of Boston After School & Beyond, and is led by Youth Sports Coordinator Chris Lynch. A key part of the BYSI is the newsletter which is edited by Chris with Assistant Editor Janice M. Epstein.

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