
Mission & Approach

America SCORES inspires urban youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. SCORES empowers youth through soccer, poetry, and community service learning. The innovative curriculum improves students' health, academic achievement and community engagement.

Three Step Process to Sports-Based Youth Development

- 1 – We engage youth and create teams through the sport of soccer.
- 2 – Students discover their voice through poetry.
- 3 – As a team, poet-athletes work together to make positive change in their community.



Soccer – The year-round soccer team creates a sense of belonging and provides opportunities for youth to be physically active and socially engaged.



Poetry – In the fall season, the team meets with their coach for writing workshops to inspire students to become authors of original poetry, share personal stories, and learn to express themselves in new and creative ways.



Community – During the spring season, poet-athletes do research and create a community service project around a real challenge they identify. Students take initiative and assume leadership roles becoming agents of change in their community through thoughtful service-learning.



The Result – As a result of America SCORES programs, youth learn healthy habits, feel more connected to their school and to their peers, and become part of a team of engaged students who experience success on the field, in the classroom, and in their community.

America SCORES curriculum aims to strengthen the social, emotional, physical, and literary competency of each child. The programs are grounded in a youth development framework utilize culturally and developmentally responsive strategies to accomplish these goals. America SCORES programs harness students' energy and passion for soccer, and use it as a catalyst for academic motivation, creative expression, and social and civic engagement.

Bring SCORES to Your Site

In partnership with afterschool program sites, America SCORES provides:

- Structured curriculum to implement soccer, poetry, and/or service-learning programs.
- Soccer equipment: soccer balls, cones, and scrimmage vests.
- Writing supplies: composition journals, pencils, erasers, positive praise stickers.

America SCORES host site provides:

- Designate at least 1 staff member to coach each team (1 soccer coach and 1 poetry coach per team, or 1 coach can lead both soccer and poetry).
- A field/yard and classroom space to conduct practice and class.
- Schedule time to allow for at least 1 soccer practice and 1 poetry class per week.

Program Cost

Contact America SCORES Bay Area for more info. Cost varies based on program specifics of your school and/or city.

SCORES Soccer

Soccer Coaching Curriculum

Year-Round | Grades **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8**

The America SCORES soccer experience is based upon three key principles: **teamwork, leadership, and commitment**. The curriculum helps coaches emphasize effort and improvement over winning or losing. America SCORES sports-based youth development model builds confidence, communication, and conflict resolution skills. At practices, we encourage coaches to teach the rules of soccer, the tactics, and the fundamental skills in a fun and inclusive environment. America SCORES also leverages evidence-based curriculum developed by the US Soccer Foundation Soccer for Success program to help coaches encourage their team to build healthy habits through nutrition education messaging.



Need

Low-income, urban communities often lack accessible opportunities for children to participate in organized sports and other enriching extra-curricular activities. Being a member of a sports team can help students feel connected to their school and their community. America SCORES partners with school-site afterschool programs to create a accessible, school-based soccer programs. America SCORES coaches are positive adult role-models who become mentors for youth and enable students to build stronger relationships with their peers and their community.

Activities

Program Lessons

- Team and community building activities
- The rules of the game and play
- Warm-ups, fitness, and stretching
- Technical soccer skill development

Program Workshops:

- Exercise and physical fitness
- Building teamwork and leadership skills
- Health and nutrition resources

Objectives

- Increase fitness and daily physical activity
- Increase knowledge of nutrition and wellness
- Emphasize effort and improvement over winning
- Improve soccer skills and competence
- Boost physical confidence and body image
- Improve teamwork and social connectedness

Outcomes

- 98% of participants improved or maintained their aerobic capacity and BMI percentage
- 95% say they make healthier choices when deciding what to eat or drink
- 88% of participants say America SCORES makes them feel good about themselves and 83% of parents say their child's confidence is better because of America SCORES
- 85% of parents say that America SCORES helps their child get along with other kids better.

Power of Poetry

167 page Poetry Curriculum

Fall | Grades 2 3 4 5

The creative process of writing poetry improves the literacy skills of students and struggling writers can find success. Writing brief pieces, repeating words that they like or know, and the freedom to experiment with grammar and style allow students to build confidence and have fun writing. English-language learners are encouraged to play with language without concern for syntax or convention. More proficient writers are able to experiment with language, enhancing their self-expression and communication skills. The *Power of Poetry* curriculum guides coaches as students create poetry portfolios and participate in poetry readings.



Need

When students fall behind in their writing abilities and confidence, they are likely to become discouraged, disinterested, and even resistant towards reading and writing. America SCORES provides engaging activities that spark and reinvigorate students' interest in writing and learning. In fun and interactive workshops, students learn the basics of poetry, literary devices, and public speaking. By incorporating the community's support through public performances, America SCORES creates a culture that promotes and celebrates self expression and academic achievement.

Activities

- Literary moments and exposure to mentor texts
- Opportunity to write about self, family, and community
- Introduction to the elements of poetry – alliteration, simile, metaphor, rhyme and rhythm
- Literacy-based games
- Exposure to various forms of poetry such as limericks, haikus, and epistles
- Journaling, reflection, and revision
- Sharing through the “author’s chair” poetry presentations, Poetry Slams, and other special events

Objectives

- Develop individual creative voice
- Build confidence in writing
- Write poems in a variety of forms
- Share writing with a group of peers (teammates)
- Understand and execute the writing process
- Express complex feelings and opinions in writing
- Approach writing with increased enthusiasm
- Learn basic literary terminology and devices
- Listen to, respect, and reflect on published work

Leaders in Action

159 page Service-Learning Curriculum

Spring | Grades **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8**

Leaders in Action takes place in the spring season and expands upon the teamwork and writing skills students learn in the fall. The team works together, with the guidance of their coach, to identify a need within their community and create a project to address that need. America SCORES offers in-depth, structured curriculum to guide the team on their path of community involvement. Students conceptualize and execute their projects as they take initiative and assume leadership roles within their team to develop innovative solutions to real challenges in their community.



Need

The America SCORES approach to service-learning offers an empowering perspective to the many challenges our students face in their schools and neighborhoods. The positive association between civic engagement and increased self-efficacy is well documented. When given the opportunity to research and address important and culturally relevant issues in a group setting, students can act upon their concerns in a creative and constructive manner. This process enables students to develop their own voices, articulate powerful ideas, become agents of positive change, and engage in critical reflection.

Activities

Program Lessons

- Preparation and decision-making
- Research and planning
- Writing, service, advocacy, and action
- Demonstration and reflection

Program Events and Workshops:

- Guest speakers/interviews
- Surveys, letters to community leaders, petitions
- Culminating community event
- Critical reflection

Objectives

- Use writing to explore connections between knowledge, community issues, and potential solutions
- Students define their communities through observation, writing, research, and outreach
- Students think critically about a community issue and work as a team to complete a service-learning project
- Increase in community awareness, social engagement, and cultural understanding