

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF THE YEXPLORE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of another incredible year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the positive impact we've made together through the Y Explore Afterschool program. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and collaboration.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Based on valuable feedback from parents and school administrators this year, we have implemented several enhancements to our Y Explore Afterschool program, ensuring that it continues to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for our students and families. Here are some improvements we've made:

- New Curriculum: Introducing Y Explore We developed an exciting new curriculum called Y Explore, which offers enhanced and engaging activities to keep our kids actively learning and exploring new horizons.
- Early Registration for Returning Families We value the loyalty of our returning families, and to show our appreciation, we launched early registration on April 29, allowing them to secure their spots in advance.
- Flexible Part-Time Option We understand that not all families require afterschool care every day. That's why we continue to offer a part-time option, accommodating the needs of families who do not need five days of afterschool care.
- Simplified Financial Assistance Model We have simplified our financial assistance process by introducing a reduced rate for families eligible for free or reduced lunch. This ensures that our program remains accessible and inclusive for all.
- Improved Communication Starting this fall, we will be implementing a monthly newsletter to keep families informed about program updates, upcoming events, and exciting opportunities for their children.

"I am truly happy that my son has a safe place to be until I get off from work."

"Y Afterschool

Y EXPLORE AFTERSCHOOL PILOT

In June 2022, we embarked on an exciting journey by partnering with Mount Vernon Ventures, renowned experts in design thinking and curriculum development. Together, we have created the Y Explore program curriculum, aiming to provide our youth with an extraordinary extended learning experience. Through Clubs, Imagination Stations, and program activities centered on a monthly theme, participants have the opportunity to learn while having fun.

Through a partnership with Wings for Kids, the Y is building a culture of social-emotional skill development, including self-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

To keep our programs engaging, we leverage partners like:

- STEAM initiatives through Cox Communications
- Chattahoochee River Keepers Experiences
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- In-house Field Trips: Zoo Atlanta, Fox in a Box, and more!

Dedicated homework time and a commitment to building healthy habits remain a core part of the program.

"My child is always happy after going to the Y. They make children feel safe and cared for."

ensures that students are engaged in fun learning activities and complete all work assigned from school."

> "Y Afterschool brings out the best in my child."

IMPACT CORNER

"I couldn't be any happier with my son's experience. The Y was extremely accommodating (knowing he was a new student to this school). I have heard excellent things from my son about his teachers. You can tell the leaders really enjoy working with the kids. Thank you!"

VALUED PARTNERSHIPS AND EXCITING FUTURE AHEAD

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we are thrilled to share a preview of what's coming next in our Y Explore Afterschool program. Please click here to explore the exciting opportunities that await our participants in the 2023-2024 school year.

On behalf of all of us at the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, thank you to the school partners, funders, and community partners who have contributed to the success of the Y Explore Afterschool program. Together, we are making a significant impact on the lives of our participants, fostering their growth, development, and academic achievement.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and looking forward to another fantastic year of learning and exploration!

Warm regards,

Kim Nelson

Senior Vice President of Program Development

YMCA of Metro Atlanta

