

Subject: College Prep kicks off Upstate and StreetSquashers place first at Northeast Regionals

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College Exploration is in Full Swing
Students and Staff Celebrate National College Application
Week and Embark on First College Prep Trip of the Year



10th and 11th grade students enjoy a sunny fall day at Hamilton College for a campus tour.



Staff in Newark (left) and Harlem (right) wear their college gear as ambassadors of the college experience for students.

On October 22nd, College Application Week launched at StreetSquash. The national initiative, brought to StreetSquash by the College Access and Success Department, coincided with the first round of college application deadlines. This year, as in years past, all 35 students in the Class of 2019 will apply to college

with the support of our College Access Department.

As part of College Application Week, all staff members wore college gear from their respective alma maters. Our 7th through 11th grade students interviewed staff members during their academic and college prep sessions. Each staff member welcomed questions about their applications, academic studies, final projects, and athletic and extracurricular commitments. Students used this opportunity to learn about college life at a variety of different schools, and to broaden their ideas about where they might apply in the coming years.



On court at Hamilton College, the men's and women's squash teams gather with students and staff.

For our 10th and 11th graders, College Application Week culminated in an exciting weekend, with the first College Prep trip of the year. Traveling to upstate New York, students visited Syracuse University and Le Moyne College, played squash at Hamilton College, and reunited with alumnae at SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College. The beautiful October weekend boasted great weather for tours, during which students asked questions about major concentrations and how it felt to be far from home.

At Hamilton College, students were fortunate to connect with Hector, an ambassador of the Squash & Education Alliance (SEA). An alumnus of Squash Haven, Hector shared his experience transitioning from the New Haven program to a collegiate team. His perspective proved valuable for many students who will also consider pursuing a college squash career in the future. After exploring the campus, the men's and women's squash teams and Head Coach Jamie King hosted a Q&A at the squash courts, followed by a hit at Hamilton's 10-court facility.

Visiting SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College was perhaps the highlight of the trip, with the opportunity to connect with StreetSquash alumnae Briana '18 and Nia '17, who had been in the students' shoes not too long ago. "Briana and Nia made the trip so special for us by sharing tips on how to survive senior year," reflected Jennifer Ng, Director of College Success and Alumni Support. "It was such a treat to hear them list the strategies we used to teach during college prep, such as time management and self-advocacy, now as role models to the younger students."

After a full weekend of college tours, the students returned home energized to dig into ACT prep, vocabulary lessons, and to tackle their school assignments. The trip proved to be motivating and informative for all participants, with the exposure to four distinct institutions providing important experience and context to students as their plans for college continue to evolve.

StreetSquash Scoreboard



Je'miah '21, Le'Fayia '20, Squash Director Joshua, Sarabi '20, Johnasia '20, and Zhae '20 before the first match at the Northeast Regional Team Championship.

10 community service hours were earned beautifying Central Park, planting trees in New Jersey, and preparing and packaging food at the Harlem Rotary Club Food Pantry.

25 alumni were visited by **College Success Staff** at their respective schools across New York state.

12 Bowdoin College Squash alumni volunteered with students for a fun Saturday squash practice.

15 students from Harlem and Newark attended a **leadership summit** in Newark to develop the Student Leadership Committee and network with local professionals.

57 StreetSquashers represented Harlem and Newark in the **SEA Northeast Regional Team Championship**.

80 high schoolers spent **8** hours at the **NYC Votes phone bank** urging citizens to vote.

SEA Northeast Regional Team Championships

57 StreetSquashers Compete for Regional Title Among
New York, Boston, Providence, Lawrence, and Hartford



Squash Director Katiria, Naheem '20, Ryan '19, Nicholos '20, Conner '21, Ivan '19, Mauricio '19, Marvyn '19, and Coach Nasean '14 celebrate earning 1st place medals in the High School Boys A Division.

SEA's largest competition of the fall boasted 150 players from CitySquash, SquashBusters, Squash Haven, Capitol Squash, and our very own StreetSquash. Held annually at Yale University, students were excited to see friends from other programs and to show off their skills on court. 57

StreetSquash middle and high schoolers traveled to New Haven for the event, with many of the teams bringing home medals for the program. Congratulations are in order for the StreetSquash Harlem High School Boys A, High School Girls A, and Middle School Boys A teams for winning their respective divisions!

Beyond the trophies, the passion from the students was tangible largely due to the overwhelming support from students, staff, and volunteers. A team of nine staff members - six from Harlem and three from Newark - coached the largest team that StreetSquash has ever entered in this tournament. The students were surprised by a special visit from Newark volunteer, Bonnie Doll, and Eagle Academy Athletic Director, Ed Ferraro, who both came to show their support for the Newark students.

"Seeing all of the students interact was a highlight for me," shared Harlem Senior Squash Director Edgardo Gonzalez. "It was really impressive to see everyone supporting one another." Newark Squash Director Kingsley Amoako agreed that the participation was impressive. "I could tell the wins and losses were motivating for all of the students," Amoako reported. "They all voiced the skills they want to focus on strengthening when we're back on court for practice." Strong teamwork, incredible sportsmanship, and the inspiring backdrop of Yale University all contributed to sending students home with positive momentum for the next contest.

StreetSquash Serves **Student Volunteers Interact with Their Community in a** **New Light, Bond with Teammates and Staff**



9th and 10th graders in Newark partner with the New Jersey Tree Foundation to learn about tree planting in Irvington County.

The first week of November was a busy one at StreetSquash. Over 150 students participated in service-learning activities, with the goal of creating positive change in their communities. For the first service week of the school year, students had opportunities to volunteer with the New Jersey Tree Foundation, the Harlem Rotary Club Food Pantry, Central Park Pick-Up, and NYC Votes.

The New Jersey Tree Foundation partnered with our students and staff to consider the benefits of tree-planting in Irvington County. Participants bundled up and, armed with shovels and positive spirits, planted trees in teams of three, digging holes, measuring tree roots, and adding mulch to sustain the freshly planted trees. "Some proved more difficult than others, but that didn't stop us from getting the job done," Squash Director and tree-planting supervisor Joshua Gary reflected. "We ended the day by planting 32 trees around the local elementary school and had some much deserved smiles on our faces," Gary shared proudly.

In Harlem, 8th graders spent a morning at the Harlem Rotary Club Food Pantry. Students and staff started with a training orientation, and by the end of the day, some students took charge of the event like professionals. Ibrahim '23 stepped up to run his own table for the Food Pantry services, leading by example for our new students trying out.

Just a few subway stops downtown, the rest of the middle school cohort spent a day beautifying Central Park's recreation areas. Squash Director Jack Smith was impressed that the sixth graders took the initiative to create a competition to see who could gather the most trash. "Even more than being positive about the work, they really seemed to understand why we were doing this," Smith remarked. "The sixth graders showed a lot of collaboration and effort, without any complaints."

In place of after-school programming during the week, StreetSquash high schoolers returned to NYC Votes for another election season. Over 80 students in grades 9-12 filled phone stations to remind citizens to vote in the November 6th election. While some students enjoyed the chance to practice their "phone voice," all agreed that the chance to engage in civic matters - despite being too young to vote - made them feel empowered.



Alumni Spotlight Fatou '13

Fatou, a member of the StreetSquash Class of 2013, graduated from The City College of New York this spring. With a BA in History and Journalism, Fatou's passion for media and broadcast journalism guides everything that she does.

"Media has a fundamental impact on society, and is so important at this particular moment," Fatou explained. "I hope to be the voice of my people in the

African community, and a voice for the voiceless." Read more about Fatou's work in media on our [blog](#)!

Do you have a connection for Fatou's professional interests in media?
Contact [Jennifer](#) for Fatou's information!

Looking Ahead

Howe Cup Women's Team Championship
Friday, November 9 - Sunday, November 11
Philadelphia, PA

YLC Volunteer Day
Saturday, November 17
SL Green StreetSquash Center
Contact the [StreetSquash YLC](#) for more information

Career Night
Tuesday, November 20
SL Green StreetSquash Center
RSVP [here](#) or contact [Assumpta](#) for more information

StreetSquash's 20th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, January 16
Harvard Club of New York
Register [here](#) and join us for the celebration!

Join the Movement to Double Your Impact

**On Tuesday, November 27th, Your Donation Goes
Twice as Far with Facebook's Match**

#GIVINGTUESDAY™





Get Involved

Volunteer: Are you interested in volunteering with our students in the classroom or on the courts?

For **Harlem**, fill out this [form](#) to be notified for an orientation. For volunteering in **Newark**, fill out this [form](#).

Serve: Are you a motivated young professional interested in StreetSquash? Would you like to network with a board of likeminded, dedicated young professionals? Fill out this [form](#) to learn more about the StreetSquash Young Leadership Committee.

Support: Are you dedicated to the mission and students of StreetSquash? Consider [donating](#) to our organization.



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