

SCORES Poet-Athletes Slam “The Big Apple”

Monday April 28th 2008 marked the *2nd Annual America SCORES National Poetry Slam!* in New York City. America SCORES Miami was proud to send two poet-athlete representatives to the prestigious spoken-word literary event. Hailing from two separate SCORES Sites (participating schools), Avy Le of Natural Bridge Elementary and Bobby Bastien of North Miami Elementary embarked on the four-day, three-night adventure brimming with enthusiasm and just bit of trepidation.



Avy and Bobby (back) listen for presentation tips during rehearsal for the America SCORES National Poetry Slam.

Upon their arrival in New York City, the poet-athletes from Miami were introduced to their SCORES teammates representing sister-city America SCORES affiliate organizations through a series of team-building games. Poet-athletes participating in the national slam maintained a busy schedule of activities and tasks in order to prepare for their performances. Students and their chaperones were shuttled between venues while engaging in more team-building activities, and lots of rehearsal time. Student and chaperones were also provided much needed free time to explore the host city. Chaperones escorted the poet-athletes on sightseeing adventures throughout the “Big Apple” including trips to Time Square, Central Park, and Staten Island to see the Statue of Liberty.

SCORES poet-athletes awoke the day of the show to a plethora of tasks and activities including a couple of dress rehearsals and a trip to the famous “Top of the Rock” attraction located at Rockefeller Center. Finally

after weeks of writing, reading, practicing, and waiting, it was show time! The weekend adventure concluded with a “transformational” performance of original poetic works by the poet-athletes of America SCORES. The students were all absolutely phenomenal and without a doubt everyone, including the audience, left changed by the experience!

To learn more about how you can help support your local *Poetry Slam!* and/or the costs of sponsoring a SCORES poet-athlete and their family to attend the *3rd Annual America SCORES National Poetry Slam!*, please contact Sam Joseph at (305) 446-9313 or email sjoseph@americascorers.org.



America SCORES Poet-athletes participating in the *2nd Annual America SCORES National Poetry Slam* take a moment from their practice session to take a group photo.

North Miami SCORES with Service from At-risk Youth



Poet-athletes get "psyched" as they prepare to begin their service projects at Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park in North Miami.

The 2nd Annual America SCORES Miami Shout! Day of Service took place April 25, 2008. Poet-athletes, SCORE Corps staff and chaperones were transported out into their community's backyard to make a difference. Partnering with the City of North Miami's Parks and Recreation Department and the staff at the Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park, students from all four SCORES Sites united to revitalize the park, a valuable community treasure! In an effort to give back to the city that has given them so much, poet-athletes and other event attendees enthusiastically undertook this project. Students rotated with their coaches around four activity stations:

1. Re-mulched park trails
2. Planted a Florida wildflower/butterfly garden and preparing the soil in an adjacent plot by tilling the soil, removing rocks and also weeding out the dangerous invasive species known as the "Air Potato", which grows rampantly in South Florida.
3. Undertook a letter writing campaign to Mayor Kevin Burns of the City of North Miami wherein poet-athletes thanked the City for allowing America SCORES to use the fields at Benjamin Franklin Soccer Park and requesting security assistance during our weekly "Game Day" activities following several incidents of harassment.
4. Took nature walks conducted by the park naturalists that introduced both students and coaches to topics such as Florida's delicate ecosystems, biodiversity, the need to be "green" and many other details about the park's and the city's history.

Following their rotation through all four stations, poet-athletes

and their coaches were treated to a boxed lunch and some free time to explore the park further. Mayor Kevin Burns, in appreciation for all the work completed by the youth, presented each school's representative with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their participation in the Shout! Day of Service. In appreciation for all the support we received from the City of North Miami, Mayor Burns was officially presented with the letters that the students had written earlier in the day.

To learn more about how you can help support the 3rd Annual Shout! Day of Service or other SCORES service-learning activities, please contact Jessica Sherman at (305) 446-9388 or email jsherman@americascoreres.org.



Mayor Kevin Burns distributes award to representatives from Ben Franklin Elementary. Also pictured are Park Ranger Lola (left) and ASM Executive Director Sam Joseph (second to left).

Fútbol SCORES Big in South Florida!

May 17, 2008 brought the America SCORES After-school Program season to a close with the 2nd Annual Jamboree! All poet-athletes and coaches arrived on schedule and played their last game of the season in front of a crowd of dozens of spectators. Perhaps most excitingly, students who best exemplified the SCORES values of teamwork, leadership and commitment were recognized through the SCORES patch program. The 24 honorees received adidas backpacks stuffed with the latest SCORES Kicker! magazine, a book for summer reading and Miami FC stickers. Additionally all students received backpacks also filled with a Kicker! magazine, a SCORES participation patch, and a book for summer reading. SCORE Corps staff (coaches and administration) were given small tokens of appreciation, including deluxe gym bags and MLS gear. As with every great party, the afternoon wrapped up with a feast of pizza and goodie bags provided courtesy of Aramark.

May 22nd marked America SCORES Miami's first time participating in the US Soccer



Foundation's Passback Tour. In addition to an afternoon of professionally led soccer clinics, all students were given a soccer ball and t-shirt to take home for practice. USSF, in partnership with the Miami FC and Eurosport, provided students with all kinds of soccer gear, including posters, raffled apparel items, stickers and the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and players from the Miami FC. Everyone had a fantastic time and thankfully we were able to wrap up the day before the afternoon thunderstorms rolled in! These two events were a great way to cap off a great season of soccer!

America SCORES Miami thanks all its partners, sponsors and volunteers for their teamwork, leadership and commitment!

To learn more about the Jamboree!, Passback Tour, and/or how you can help support America SCORES Miami, please contact Sam Joseph at (305) 446-9313 or email sjoseph@americascorers.org.



SCORE Corps Staff Profiles



Coach Tjarks (right) and Coach Fie Fie pictured with their team's patch award recipients.

Soccer Coach Profile

Coach Kenton Tjarks
Physical Education Coach
Natural Bridge Elementary

As a former member of the armed forces, Coach Tjarks brings a sense of responsibility and discipline to all his endeavors. Coach Tjarks joined America SCORES Miami in the fall of 2007 and was instrumental in the successful implementation of the America SCORES After-school Program at Natural Bridge Elementary. A former soccer player himself, Coach Tjarks instills a love and respect for the game in all his poet-athletes!



Coach Pierre (left) and Coach Sanchez pictured with their team's patch award recipients.

Writing Coach Profile

Dr. Jacques E. Pierre
4th grade teacher
North Miami Elementary

2007 marked Dr. Pierre's debut as a poetry coach for America SCORES Miami. Always a team player, Dr. Pierre never hesitated to jump in and help out at soccer practices, weekly "Game Day" activities, and/or other program events. Dr. Pierre's dedication to the After-school program was recognized when one of his prized poet-athletes, Bobby Bastien, was selected as one of the two poet-athletes chosen to represent Miami at the 2nd Annual America SCORES National Poetry Slam! in New York City.

School Liaison Profile

Amy Strickland
Community School Specialist
Oak Grove Elementary

Amy has been a SCORE Corps staff member since America SCORES Miami implemented a six-week pilot program in the spring of 2007. During her tenure in the After-school program, Ms. Strickland has served as the School Liaison for her school. In her role as School Liaison Amy serves as the point person for all things "SCORES" at Oak Grove Elementary. Amy has done a fantastic job of keeping the program running smoothly at her school, endearing her not only to the SCORES staff, but also the poet-athletes and their families.

To learn more about how you can become one of our fabulous SCORE Corps staff and/or host a SCORES program at your local school please contact Sam Joseph at (305) 446-9313 or email sjoseph@americascorers.org.

Helping kids score goals on the field while achieving their goals in the classroom!

ASM Photo Album: A Year in the Life!

America SCORES Miami recently completed its first full year of successful programming in Miami-Dade. Since the inception of the America SCORES After-school Program in the spring of 2007 more than 300 public school students and over 50 school personnel have witnessed first-hand the benefits of participation in the nation's most unique youth development program. As we approach a new school year, America SCORES Miami, our partners and other community stakeholders look forward to continuing to provide quality after school programming for Miami's youth in the areas of sports, literacy and service-learning.

To learn more about the America SCORES After-school Program and/or how you can help support youth development activities in South Florida, please contact Sam Joseph at (305) 446-9313 or email sjoseph@americascoreres.org.



Miami's At-Risk Youth Need You!

I am reminded of the old African proverb which states "It takes a village to raise a child." This proverb holds special meaning for America SCORES Miami in our effort to support the development of our community's youth! With all the resources we can muster, America SCORES Miami is but one member of the "village" of people and entities who can make a difference. Dr. King said so eloquently on many occasions, "I am my brother's keeper," reminding us that our destinies as human beings are inextricably intertwined. It is critical that we work together to ensure each other's success!

We invite you to become a member of the "village" by showing your support for the development of Miami's youth. With your generous support we can ensure that South Florida's children score goals on the field while achieving their goals in the classroom, and life! Help us build on the dream one child at a time by sponsoring the program services listed here.

Samuel Joseph
Executive Director

\$25

- Sponsor the cost of two poet athletes' writing supplies for one year

\$50

- Sponsor the insurance costs for a boys' or girls' soccer team at one SCORES school for one year

\$100

- Sponsor the cost of one year of transport to weekly Game Days for a poet-athlete

\$250

- Sponsor the cost of honorarium stipends for guest literacy and soccer coaches for a year for one SCORES school

\$500

- Sponsor the cost of hosting Fall Frenzy 2008 (season kick-off event)
- Sponsor the cost of hosting Shout! 2008 (day of community service)
- Sponsor the cost of printing the SCORES Scoop for one year

\$1,000

- Sponsor the cost of providing training stipends for SCORE Corps (classroom teachers and school personnel) of one SCORES school for one year
- Sponsor the cost for providing healthy snacks for a boys' or girls' team at one SCORES school for one year

\$1,500

- Sponsor the cost of hosting Poetry Slam! 2008 (spoken-word performance at the Miami Book Fair International)
- Sponsor the cost of hosting Jamboree! 2008 (end of the year soccer tournament)

\$2,000

- Sponsor the cost for providing healthy snacks for one SCORES school for a year

\$2,500

- Sponsor the costs for transporting the family (two adults) of one America SCORES Miami poet-athlete to New York City to attend their child's performance at the America SCORES National Poetry Slam!

\$3,500

- Sponsor the costs for providing soccer equipment to four SCORES schools for one year

The America SCORES Miami Board of Directors has set an ambitious strategic growth plan that will involve providing services to more than 1,000 children by 2013. Although ambitious, we know these goals are attainable with the continued support of the "village." Initiatives such as those being undertaken by America SCORES Miami can only survive with the support of individuals from throughout the local community. We look forward to working with you and all our other community partners to meet this very worthy goal in the coming years!

To make your tax deductible donation today or to learn more about America SCORES Miami and how you can support this worthy cause, call (305) 446-9313 or visit AmericaSCORESMiami.org.

To see and learn more about our fabulous first year visit AmericaSCORESMiami.org!