Street Soccer Programs

The Movement of Street Soccer is a collective of organizations around the world that uses soccer to promote the inclusion and development of children and youth living in vulnerable situations. This Movement has been going on for many years in Latin America organizing festivals, conferences, cultural exchanges and world events of street soccer in parallel with the FIFA World Cup and is now headed to YAP USA!

The methodology of street soccer was created as a strategy of social transformation. It attempts to use soccer to recover human values. Playing soccer in the street is a return to the roots of football. Participants agree to play a game in a self-regulated space and cooperatively establish a framework of respect. Each team plays with equal numbers of girls and boys. Before playing, there is a meeting or mediation guided by an adult facilitator where the teams decide on rules for the game. After the game is played, all players discuss if the rules were upheld and if both teams respected the values of SOLIDARITY, COLLABORATION and RESPECT.

Suggested participant's age group

Because of soccer’s universal appeal, the sport can be enjoyed by all. The Street Soccer movement works with adults, teenagers as well as young children to engage in the development of soccer skills in addition to fostering cooperation, respect and solidarity.

Groups project may benefit

Street soccer is a tool to build stronger, healthier, happier and safer communities. Participation in street soccer creates opportunities to learn new skills, develop confidence, enhance self-esteem and reduce apathy which can trigger at-risk behavior. Participation in street soccer also contributes to the prevention of obesity in addition to providing support for at-risk members of society by creating a level playing ground.

Street soccer programming is also effective at engaging immigrant populations as it provides a culturally relevant activity for youth and families. Through street soccer, youth are encouraged to build positive relationships and create meaningful community linkages.

Street soccer programs can become a “Give Back” opportunity for YAP youth who take on the role of mentor/mediator/role model for younger community youth. These young adults are able to effectively engage younger participants in the methodology in addition to putting the community outreach component into the young person's hands.

The project is tailored to work with youth and teenagers aged 6-18. Through street soccer programs, youth are able to learn competence and the ability to execute sport specific skills as well as build confidence in an environment that values progress, effort and improvement. These youth are also able to be connected to community through a program that promotes relationships built on trust, respect and compassion.

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Program Benefits

* Builds Confidence and Self-Esteem
* Promotes Sociability, Solidarity and Friendship
* Improves Communication
* Fosters Positive Neighborhood Identity
* Supports Favorable Educational Outcomes
* Enhances Self-Esteem
* Reduces At-Risk Behaviors
* Develops Healthy Lifestyles

For More Information
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