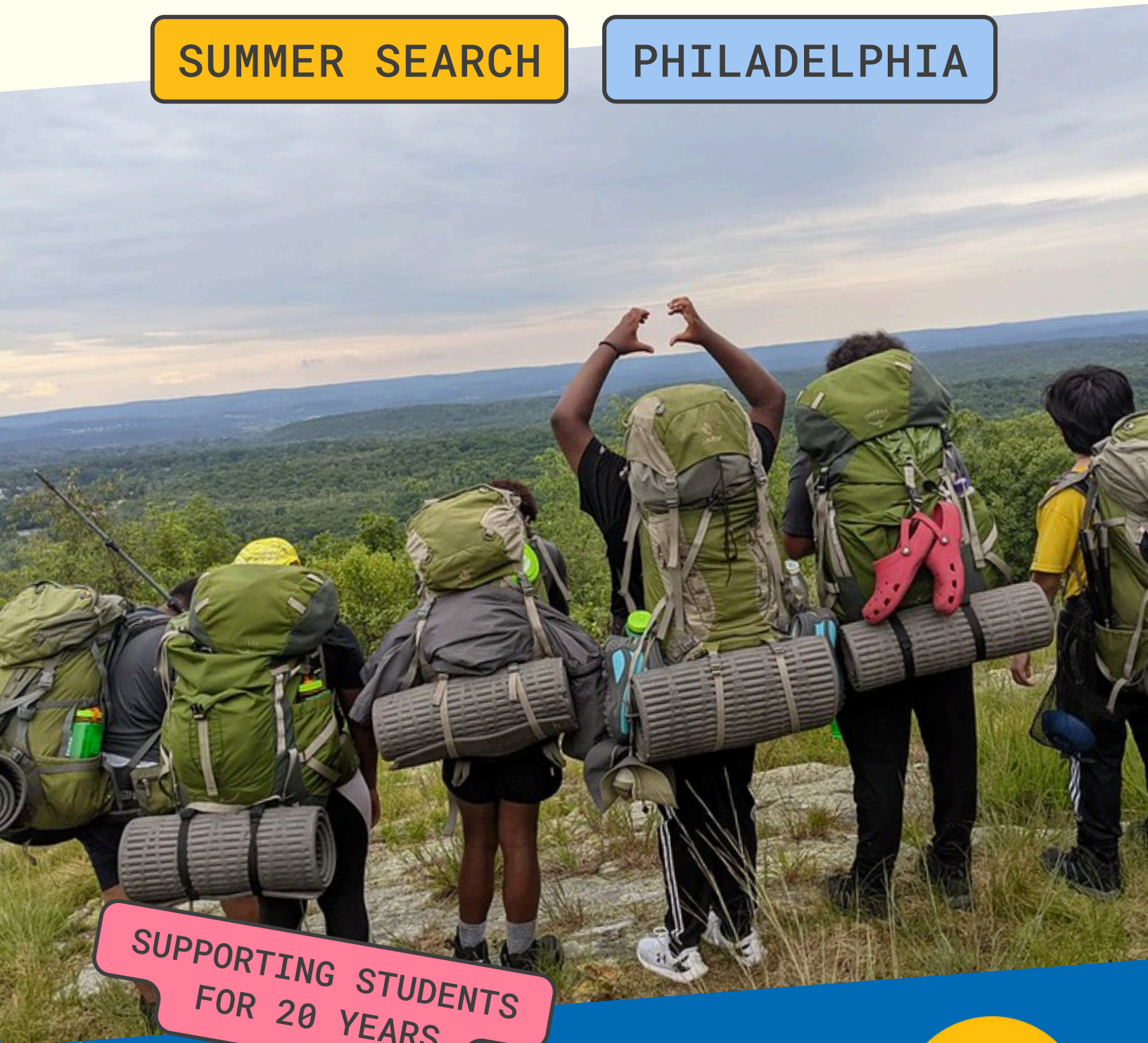


2025 IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER SEARCH

PHILADELPHIA



SUPPORTING STUDENTS
FOR 20 YEARS

SUMMER
SEARCH





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PHILADELPHIA'S 2025 IMPACT REPORT

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Executive Director's Message

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PATH, SUMMER SEARCH HAS YOUR BACK.

This year, one moment that stays with me is the energy and story of a young person who shared her learnings from her summer experience at the Delaware Water Gap. A self-proclaimed “quiet” young person, she spoke about how she leaned into the discomfort of building new relationships, and the excitement she felt about continuing to try new experiences in the future. In that moment, I saw the heart of Summer Search’s mission at work—young people stepping into their power, supported by caring adults and transformative opportunities.

In 2025, Summer Search Philadelphia celebrated several important milestones. We launched a Career Coaching Program for our alumni, expanded into three new schools, and launched an innovative in-house summer experience for our young people to explore the plentiful resources right here in Philadelphia. These changes helped us reach more students and better meet their evolving needs.

Looking ahead, we are focused on expanding student enrollment and summer experiences and deepening our connection with our community, ensuring that every Summer Searcher in the Greater Philadelphia area receives the highest quality services. These priorities are rooted in our vision of a world where all young people—regardless of background—can access the resources, relationships and opportunities they deserve.

To our students and families—thank you for your trust, strength and partnership. To our mentors, staff, volunteers, and alumni—you embody the spirit of Summer Search every day. And to our donors, partners, and champions—your belief in our mission makes this work possible.

As we move into 2026, we remain deeply committed to this work and invite you to continue this journey with us—because when we show up for young people, they show us what’s possible.

**DR. CHRISTINA CHO, ED.L.D. JOINED
SUMMER SEARCH PHILADELPHIA AS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR IN DECEMBER 2024.**

**IN ADDITION TO BEING A FORMER
PHILADELPHIA TEACHER, SHE IS ALSO A
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE.**





MISSION

Our mission is to ignite students' potential through mentoring and transformative experiences.

VISION

Summer Search envisions a world in which young people, regardless of circumstance, can fulfill their potential and lead their families and communities to thrive. We believe our world is better off when everyone can discover their purpose. Yet, for too many young people, our society creates unjust obstacles that unfairly block their search.

Every day we break down barriers and fight for equity for our students by connecting them to expansive opportunities and a community of support. We partner with them in their discovery that they possess not just the talent, but also the inner strength to carve their place in the world.

When all young people can cultivate the power and courage already inside them, they are unstoppable.

ALUMNI NETWORK:
NETWORKING &
PHILANTHROPY

PROGRAM ARC

Summer Search offers long-term holistic support to build purpose and financial well-being.

SENIOR YEAR:
POST-SECONDARY / CAREER
EXPLORATION MENTORSHIP

POST-SECONDARY:
COLLEGE, CAREER, AND
FINANCIAL MENTORSHIP

SUMMER EXPERIENCE #2:
ADVENTURE, ACADEMIC OR SERVICE
EXPERIENCE

JUNIOR YEAR:
MENTORSHIP & FUTURE PLAN

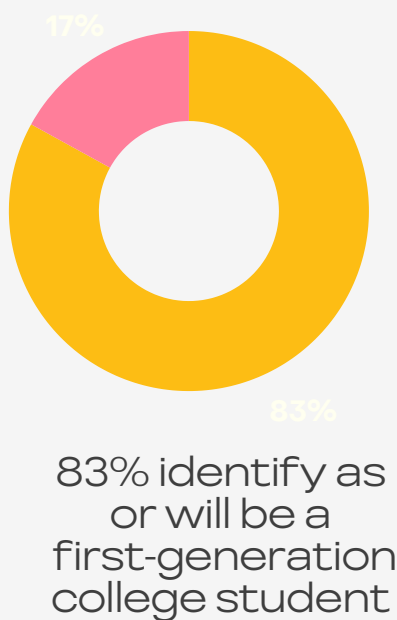
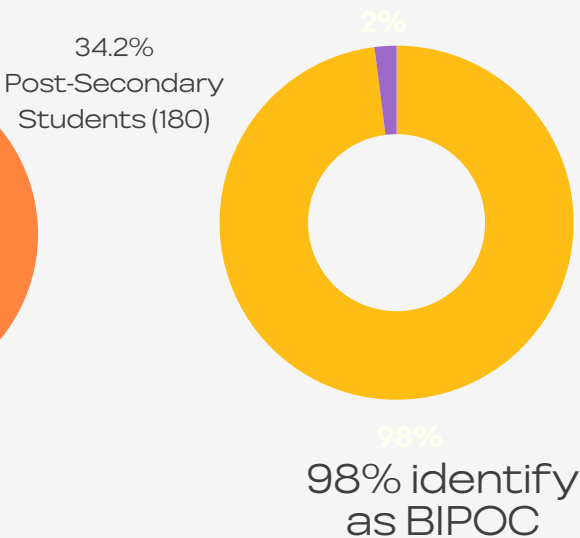
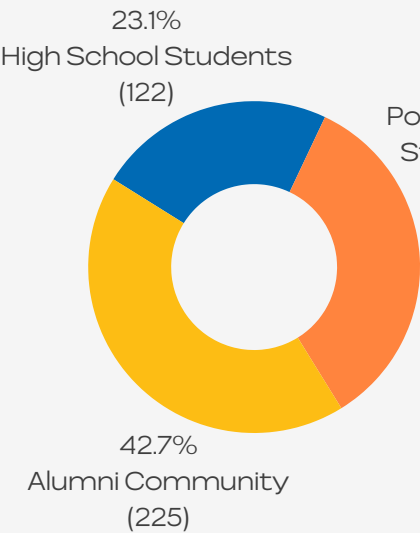
SUMMER EXPERIENCE #1: GROUP
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

SOPHOMORE YEAR:
ACCEPTANCE AND MENTORSHIP

Summer Search Philadelphia's Impact



MEET THE 527 SUMMER SEARCHERS WE SERVED IN 2025



*All data in this report is preliminary, to be finalized in Jan 2026.

Program Update

Mentoring

At the heart of Summer Search's model is Depth Mentoring. Throughout the school year, students meet weekly with their mentors - alternating between one-on-one coaching and dynamic peer group sessions that inspire growth, confidence, and community.

This year, Summer Search doubled down on learning and growth—enhancing program excellence through more mentor observations.

Key findings included:

- Students have high levels of comfort, trust, and emotional presence.
- Mentors are excellent at creating safe, engaging, and supportive spaces - especially when guiding tough conversations.
- Continuing to focus on open-ended questioning, deeper follow-up, and personalized engagement will result in even deeper impact.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS
FOR OVER 35 YEARS.



**125 STUDENTS RECEIVED
CORE MENTORING**

**36 NEW SOPHOMORES JOINED OUR
PROGRAM**

**95% OF SUMMER SEARCHERS
GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME**



"When I was struggling and my grades weren't what I wanted them to be, I was down in the dumps a little. My mentor would help me figure out what's wrong and how I could deal with it in more of a positive way.

She would ask: 'What do you think you could have improved on? Do you think you can do better next time? If so, how would you do that?' It helped me cope with how I'm feeling, but also to find ways to improve next time."

- Robert
Senior,
Marianna Bracetti Academy

Program Update

Summer Programs

This year, **49** students eagerly embraced the opportunity to dive headfirst into a life-changing summer program.

From canoeing in the Delaware Water Gap to repairing sea turtle nests in Costa Rica, each trip was guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience.

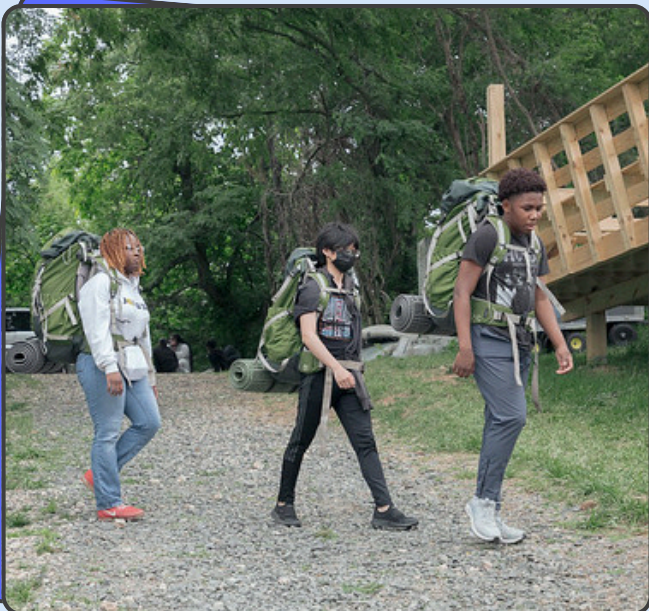
29 SOPHOMORES TRAVELED WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA

15 STUDENTS ENGAGED IN COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

5 JUNIORS TRAVELED ABROAD TO COSTA RICA & PANAMA

Students returned home with the ultimate souvenirs: new perspectives, lifelong friendships, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Their adventures not only broadened their horizons but also ignited a passion for exploration and discovery that will continue to guide them in the years to come.



"I was scared at first because I had never been away from home for this long. But this experience changed everything. I learned that being uncomfortable is how you grow and that I'm capable of handling challenges."

- 2025 Summer Search & Outward Bound participant

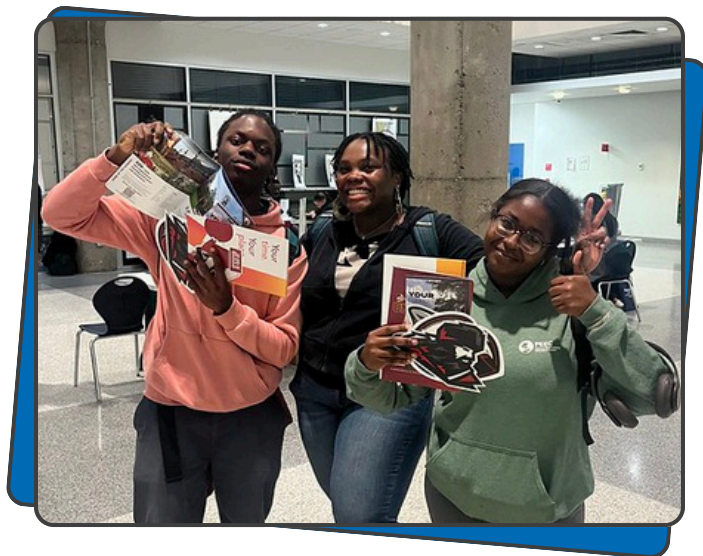
Post-Secondary Programs

In 2025, we provided 20 high school seniors and 36 PS1 students with regular mentoring touchpoints and targeted supports.

Our Transition Program was delivered via monthly 1:1 and group mentoring sessions, where dedicated post-secondary mentors guided participants through conversations and topics around campus culture, financial literacy, and career exploration.

We also offered college panels for high school junior and seniors featuring our Summer Search postsecondary stars.

Seniors participated in a Paying for College workshop in January and received 1:1 support with financial aid and scholarship applications.



**95% OF SUMMER SEARCH
SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED TO
COLLEGE**

**62% OF POSTSECONDARY
PARTICIPANTS EARNED A
DEGREE WITHIN 6 YEARS**



To supercharge our college access services, Summer Search is now partnering with Let's Get Ready, a nationally recognized organization that matches students with trained coaches who provide personalized, text-based guidance throughout the college application process.

Career Services

This year, Summer Search continued to offer individualized career support to Summer Search students and alumni.

Additionally, we worked with our partner Aon to further integrate Summer Search's mentoring model into their Department of Labor-award winning apprenticeship program.

This program, which began in Philadelphia and now includes 170 participants nationwide.

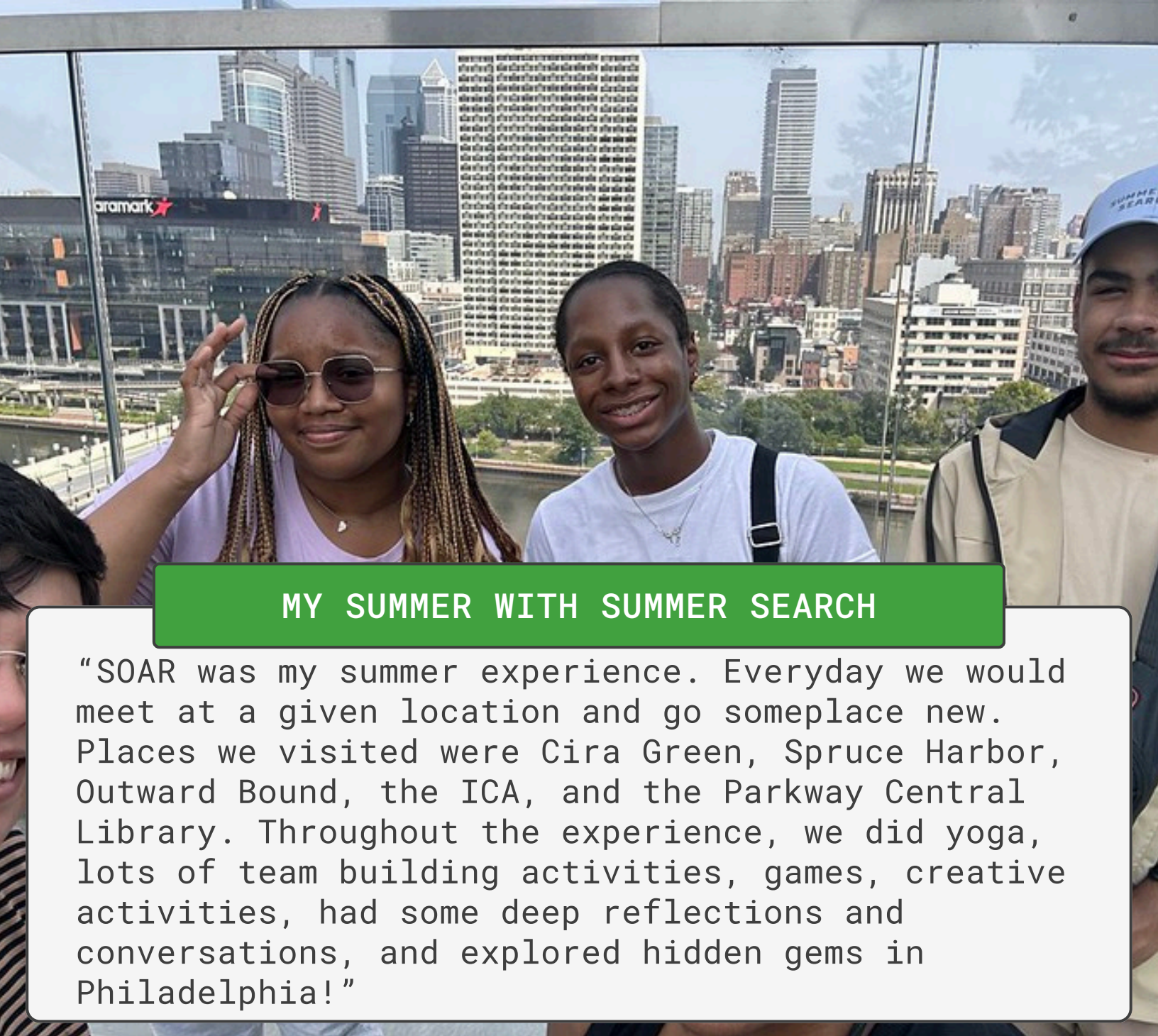


Currently, three Philadelphia Summer Searchers are enrolled, with plans for expansion and replication across industries in the future. The goal is to offer alternative postsecondary opportunities beyond traditional college paths.

Next with Our Career Programming

Summer Search is launching new career readiness supports that are fully integrated into our existing high school and post-secondary programming in the 2025-2026 school year. Leveraging our expertise in mentorship and experiential learning, our strategy includes:

- Early exposure to new career opportunities,
- Building career experience through internships, apprenticeships, and fellowships
- Developing professional networks and career mentors.

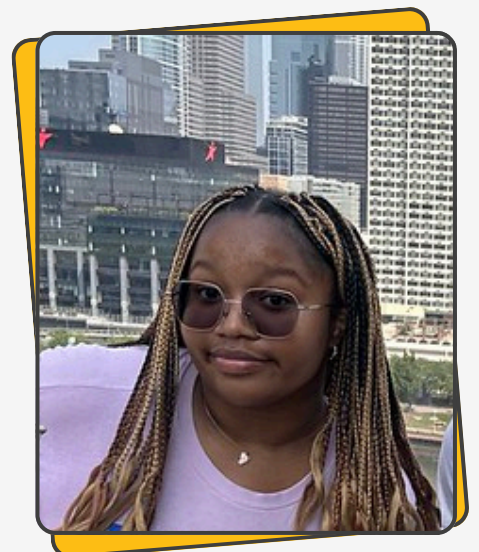


MY SUMMER WITH SUMMER SEARCH

"SOAR was my summer experience. Everyday we would meet at a given location and go someplace new. Places we visited were Cira Green, Spruce Harbor, Outward Bound, the ICA, and the Parkway Central Library. Throughout the experience, we did yoga, lots of team building activities, games, creative activities, had some deep reflections and conversations, and explored hidden gems in Philadelphia!"

MORE ON JAYELLE'S SOAR EXPERIENCE

"The scavenger hunt activity we did on one of the days made me aware of how many of the small details in life I don't quite catch... This made me realize that instead of just simply existing in the world, I should truly live through it and observe the types of things Philadelphia and the world in general has to offer."



Career Partner Highlight:



AON

Jahniya Knox

Rising Star Apprentice
of the Year 2024

Summer Search has been thrilled to partner with Aon since 2019 through their AON Apprenticeship Program. Together, we have expanded the impact of our mentoring expertise by mentoring apprentices based at Aon offices in New York, San Francisco, and the Greater Philadelphia region. Through a combination of education and work experience, apprentices have access to a pathway into corporate roles and a lasting career within the firm. Aon continues to be a cutting-edge innovator in advocating for the power of apprenticeships to bridge the skills gap, promote inclusivity, and empower the next generation of leaders.

As part of our blog post in celebration of National Apprenticeship Week 2024, we highlighted one such leader, Jahniya Knox, a Summer Search participant and Aon apprentice, recognized by the Philadelphia Apprentice Network (PAN) during the November 12, 2024, Kickoff: "Building Futures Together" for National Apprenticeship Week! Jahniya won the Rising Star Apprentice of the Year Award.

By investing in apprenticeship programs, we unlock the potential of our future workforce, fostering innovation, and creating a skilled talent pool that drives our industries forward. Summer Search is proud of the critical mentoring work we bring to this space.

Check out our blog post in celebration of [National Apprenticeship Week 2024 here](#).

Partnerships

Summer Experience Partner

STUDENTS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Students Shoulder-to-Shoulder (SStS) is an organization of four partner groups: schools, nonprofits, businesses, and philanthropists. Their mission is to inspire and support generations of ethical leaders.

Each summer, SStS offers incredible opportunities for our Philadelphia participants to engage in incredible service-learning opportunities.

Whether repairing sea turtle nests in Costa Rica or restoring coastal wetlands in New Orleans, students embrace the program's model of ethics-based leadership and come home with a new sense of social responsibility.



Summer Searchers on a hike during their sea turtle conservation trip to Costa Rica

"I was amazed at how welcoming [the Summer Searchers] were to every person we met and also how engaged they were with the program. Our group stepped outside their comfort zone many times, but did so with a smile and a desire to fully engage."

- Bill Cotter
Shoulder to Shoulder
Program Director



STUDENTS
SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER

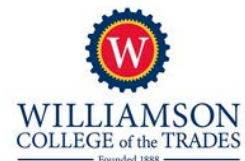
Partnerships

Additional Supporters

2024-2025 SCHOOL PARTNERS



2025 SUMMER EXPERIENCE PARTNERS



TO TEAM UP WITH SUMMER SEARCH,
CONTACT THEO MOLLOY AT TMOLLOY@SUMMERSEARCH.ORG

Events



8th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC PRESENTED BY EY

On June 23, EY and more than 30 other sponsors helped Summer Search raise more than \$210,000 through our 8th Annual Golf Classic. We are very grateful to the more than 100 players who braved the heat in support of Summer Search and the amazing young people we serve. Alum Ravone Cornish reflected on his Summer Search experience and celebrated his new leadership role during the program that followed.



Thank you to our passionate golf committee who helped make this event a success. See you on the course in 2026!



"Summer Search provided the exposure to show me that my dreams could become realities. To be able to explore my emotions and discuss my plans and thoughts with a mentor provided confidence for the rest of the journey."

- Ravone
Summer Search Philadelphia
Alum and Current Board Member



CELEBRATION AT CITY COUNCIL

On May 1, Summer Search Philadelphia was recognized by the Philadelphia City Council for its longstanding commitment to uplifting and empowering young leaders across the city. This special honor came at the recommendation of Councilmember Anthony Phillips—who knows the impact of the program firsthand as a proud past Summer Search Philadelphia fellow.

The recognition highlighted the program's deep roots in the Philadelphia community, celebrating its legacy of mentorship, experiential learning, and post-secondary support for more than 500 young people since its founding in 2006.



"I'm so grateful that Summer Search continues to make an impact on our city. Thank you for being a great engine of success for the young people of Philadelphia."

- Anthony Phillips
*Philadelphia City Council Member
and Former Summer Search Intern*

Volunteer Leadership

FY25 ADVISORY BOARD

Pam Lehrer (Chair)

AnnaMay Abbott

Imtiaz Alam

Harvey Ashman

Larry Brotzge

Lillian Chang

Joe Clark

Tom Cole

Bryan Colket

Tim Connors

Ravone Cornish*

Cesar (CJ) Cortorreal*

Lori Espe

Ben Greenfield

Jessica Hogan*

Jennifer Mantini

Pam McCormick

Tracy Motley

Charles Oliva

Justin Pascale

Jonathan Sears

Christina Selby

Mike Whalen

Lisa Wright Polk



This list recognizes those who served on the Summer Search Philadelphia advisory board during Fiscal Year '25 (Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025)

*Alumni

Get Involved

TALK WITH US

Want to learn how you can become more involved? Schedule a call or visit with our Executive Director Cho at ccho@summersearch.org.

HOST INTERNS OR HIRE OUR ALUMNI

We work with organizations across Philadelphia to provide talent recruitment support and connect Summer Searches to internships. Our partners access a pool of 180 postsecondary students and support their career goals and employee engagement with student-facing and other volunteer opportunities. Contact Anceline Eustache at aeustache@summersearch.org to learn more.

MAKE A GIFT

Your support fuels our work to provide professional mentoring, summer experiences, and post-secondary and career support to more students each year. Make a one-time or recurring gift at summersearch.org/donate.

ATTEND A SIGNATURE EVENT

Our annual Golf Classic will move to a new location in 2026! Join us June 8 at Rolling Green Golf Club. Not a golfer? Celebrate 20 years of Summer Search Philadelphia with a participant-focused program in September. Contact Theo Molloy at tmolloy@summersearch.org for more details on either event.

For more engagement opportunities,
visit www.summersearch.org/philadelphia



Connect

SUMMER SEARCH PHILADELPHIA

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Events, Support, or Volunteer Opportunities

Theo Molloy, Director of Development
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Program, Recruitment, or Employment Opportunities

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SummerSearch.org/Philadelphia
Instagram @summersearchphilly



THANK YOU!

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