

Y YOUTH LEADERS is a life-changing experience for students as well as transforming for families. Don't just take our word for it...

"For the first time ever I completed my summer reading assignment."

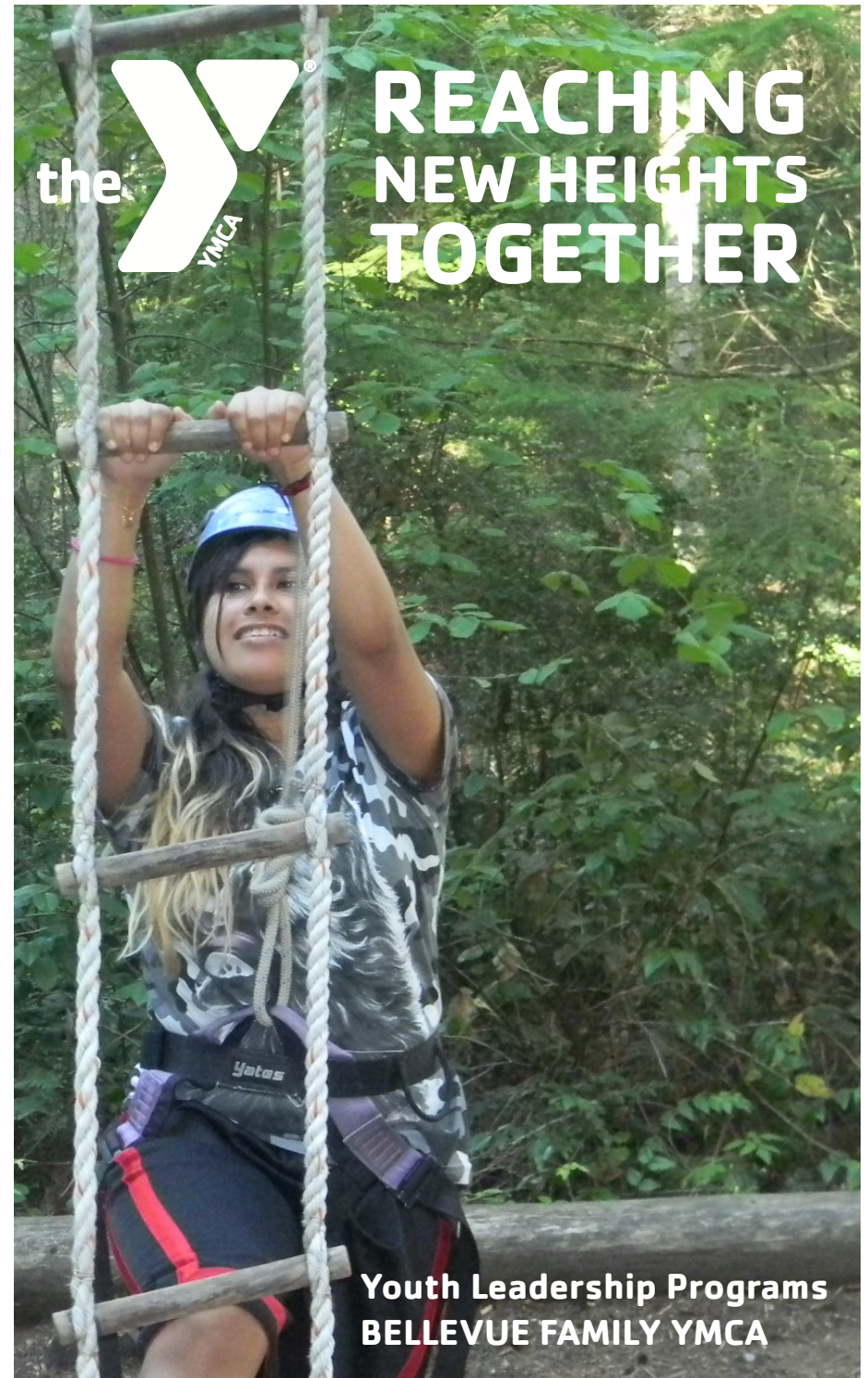
"It was so AWESOME, I loved the camp and now I feel more ready for high school. I loved going to Camp Colman, it was so the most fun I had all summer!"

"The time I spent at the camp helped me get connected with my community and be a positive role model to younger students. I also learned about College."

"My high school mentor encouraged me and she believes in me."

*Dear Bellevue Family YMCA,
I just wanted to say thank you for inviting my sons to the Summer Success Camp. It was very motivational—the exercising and keeping them on task with their reading assignment. My youngest son struggled academically last year. I believe he's more focused now because of the program going into the 8th grade! Thank you!*

BELLEVUE FAMILY YMCA
14230 Bel-Red Road, Bellevue, WA 98007
P 425-746-9900 W bellevueymca.org





Y YOUTH LEADERS enhances the lives of underserved middle school students by matching them with high school mentors from their community and engaging them in activities focused on

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 2010, African American parents of middle and high school students in the Bellevue School District came together to discuss youth development, leadership and parent engagement as it related to their children's academic success. The fruits of that conversation laid the foundational framework for Y Youth Leaders.

The Y worked with middle and high school counselors to identify 14 young black men, ages 12-17 to participate in the pilot program in August of 2012. In addition to peer mentors, we recruited adult volunteers to deliver programs in their area of expertise to reinforce for students that professional and successful adults can and do look like them.

In a summer camp environment, Students focused on literacy, healthy living, water safety, team building, arts and humanities and life skill development, all through a culturally competent lens. Through this intensive deep dive, participants created bonds that carry over into the school year, building on the summer success with added service learning & leadership development components. In the summer of 2013, the program was replicated targeting the Latina community.

PROGRAM GOALS

- **Match Black and Latino Middle School Students with positive High School role models from their community.** The continuum of participation provides leadership, college readiness and service opportunities from middle school through high school. *To date, we have matched 26 year-long mentor/mentee relationships during the intensive summer leadership program.*
- **Complete summer reading assignment on time and decrease the barriers to student academic success.** As the first official grade of the school year, the summer reading assignment sets the tone for the school year. *All students successfully completed and turned in their summer reading assignments on time with a B or higher.*
- **Strengthen student, parent and community relationships through a year long program.** By creating a network of support, students have a sense of belonging and accountability that reinforces personal development and academic achievement. *All students participate in monthly cohorts to focus on education, community service, student leadership and team building.*
- **Increase connection to the community through the community service.** Youth who are involved in their community are statistically better students, have higher self-confidence and lower at risk behaviors. *Collectively, the two groups have completed over 2,000 community service hours.*