



UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Joshua

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic coincided almost exactly with the launch of our 2020 spring season. Fortunately, our athletes and coaches are a most resilient bunch who use creativity and teamwork to bounce back from challenges with dedication and grace.

Within a week of school closures, BCYC program staff and the Youth Advisory Committee hosted what would become the first of many online community meetings. All Star youth, coaches, alumni, and parents attended, sharing personal check-ins and ideas for adapted programming to keep the team connected, engaged, and active during quarantine. The result of this first collaborative brainstorming was our weekly BCYC Bingo Challenge, which guided our activities together throughout the summer.

Every week we posted a new Bingo Card that featured 9 challenges for youth to complete. These challenges included themes we discussed during our weekly community meetings, including self care, staying active, and caring for our teammates. Youth who completed the challenges won prizes like monthly Zwift memberships and fresh produce boxes mailed to their homes, which supported our athletes and their families in maintaining healthy habits in tough times.

Amidst the choppy sea of this pandemic, BCYC found a new level of closeness, youth leadership, and mutual care. As a team and community we remain dedicated to continuing to find inventive ways to build positively together and to support each of our athlete families in getting the resources they needed to weather this storm.



PANDEMIC PROGRAMMING

HONEST REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTIES AND BRIGHT SPOTS OF THIS VULNERABLE TIME

BCYC HAS HELPED ME FIRST TO STAY ACTIVE DURING QUARANTINE. BECAUSE OF THE BINGO CARD I HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO DO EVERY DAY.

-Jahiem Williams, BCYC athlete

Our youth athletes thrive on the friendships and community of their teams, their mentorship relationships with our coaches, and outdoor physical activity. In the initial transition to virtual programming, we focused on building spaces and activities that were responsive to each others' needs, like virtual yoga classes, cooking classes, bike mechanics lessons, and Zwift group rides. Being able to share fears, disappointments and joys with teammates and coaches in these spaces strengthened our healthy habits of self reflection and emotional openness, and also reminded us that we were never alone in what we were going through.

By summer as we found somewhat surer footing in the pandemic, our programming expanded to include some socially-distanced in-person activities, like a **swim clinic** and **small group rides**. We also launched the first round of **BCYC Mini-Grant funding** to support youth's inspiring independent projects.

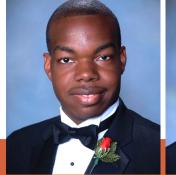




ON YOUR LEFT

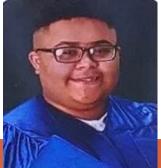
A SPEEDY FIGURE PASSES. ONLY TO BECOME FRUSTRATED BECAUSE... YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT THE FASTEST BUT STILL YOU SMILE, **OVERJOYED AND HAPPY AT YOURSELF** FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE IT'S NOT ONLY THE COMPETITION THAT MAKES YOU CONTENT IN YOUR POSITION, IT'S THE PROGRESSION THAT PUTS YOU IN THE PLACE YOU BEEN DESTINED. THAT MAKES YOU PROUD OF **EVERYTHING YOU'VE JUST DID.**

"On Your Left" by Jasmine
A poem for the weekly
BCYC Bingo Challenge











SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



We are incredibly proud to say that, through it all, we were able to present seven graduating high school BCYC seniors with 4-year Jerry Jacobs College Scholarships.

In addition to receiving a significant financial contribution toward their college tuition, these scholars are matched with a 4-year mentor and out-of-school-time employment opportunities.

Learn more about how you can support the BCYC Scholarship Fund and the core team program at www.bicyclecoalition.org/programs/youth-cycling



OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES:

Jahmiel Jackson | University of Chicago
Nia Pressley | Bloomsburg University
Maurice Jones | Chestnut Hill College
Emir Johnson | George Washington University
Devin Liles | Manor College
Marc Darden | East Stroudsburg University
Scottie Williamson | Claremont McKenna

FOR CARRYING US THROUGH THIS YEAR

We would not have been able to rise to the challenges of this year without the generosity of our donors. Many of our longtime BCYC sponsors and individual donors were able to stick with us, even as our season looked dramatically different and as COVID-19 continued to impact folks across industries.

Our incredibly successful Giving Tuesday Now fundraiser in May allowed us to bring two youth engagement initiatives to fruition that we had been incubating for a while: 1. a full lineup of cooking classes with healthy ingredients provided to youth, and 2. Zwift group riding!

Working with our second-year partner **Main Line Health**, we were able to host bi-weekly cooking classes and fund fresh produce box deliveries for all participating youth. Main Line Health's registered nutritionists developed a series of healthy and easy-to-learn recipes geared toward our growing teen athletes who are eager to try new things. We curated the recipes based on the fresh ingredients included in their produce box deliveries that arrived the day before each cooking class.

With the boost from our Giving Tuesday Now donors, we got our entire All Star Team up and running on the online training platform Zwift. Connected to their indoor bike, trainer, and data collection sensors, Zwift gives youth additional motivation to stay active and log miles. It also provided our team a social and competitive environment that we dearly missed from in-person practices and races. Through Zwift, we scheduled regular virtual team practices where we could train alongside each other, and even participate in races!

Dear BCYC Donors.

Thank you for supporting me and my teammates with materials that we can benefit from during this hard period of time and providing us with support no matter the situation. It's been a challenge staying in for a long period of time but with the resources being given and still allowing us to do cycling even though it's indoor - that's better than nothing and I'm grateful for everything.

-Sasha, Junior at Shoemaker Mastery Charter



























