

YMCA

SPOTLIGHT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS

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mavymca.com

YMCA Employee & Program Spotlight

WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM?

I am one of the STEM Technical Assistants (TAs for short) for YUSA. We provide support and guidance to YMCA Associations launching or enhancing STEM programming.

WHY DO YOU DO THIS PROGRAM?

I firmly believe that STEM education develops the life skill of problem solving. We are helping the children of tomorrow to think and create. I take this work seriously and advocate for the benefits that education can have. I have been with the YMCA for 8 years and have worked in various roles across multiple departments, but my role as a STEM TA for the New England region is the ultimate mission for me.

WHO IS IMPACTED BY THIS PROGRAM?

The youth in our programs are the primary recipients of our work. STEM education teaches children from pre- to high school to imagine, create, and persevere through their daily challenges.

WHAT'S ONE GREAT STORY THAT HAS COME OUT OF THE PROGRAM?

There are 2 moments that come to mind and illustrate the essence of our movement; maybe you will have the luck to see these events unfold too! Many of us have witnessed a child have their "Eureka" moment: when they figure out how to build technology, create something new, or improve from a past failure, and it gives me the purest sense of wonder and discovery every time. That spark is all it takes to ignite a passion for learning. The other story is what we see across the country when YMCAs are adopting STEM education or making overall improvements to their programs. When we go on site visits we seek to offer assistance and provide resources to make each YMCA center successful. We do whatever we can to make the impossible possible. We are fortunate to meet and speak with Y educators who love teaching and learning, who share these passions with their communities. A common phrase we hear on our travels is " We are going to do 'xyz' and we are figuring out how to make this work." These are the core elements of STEM in action, and our Y educators are working hard to find solutions and best practices. This speaks volumes for our movement.

Program Spotlight



YUSA STEM Program

Patrick Rosendale

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact the Massachusetts Alliance
at intern3ymca@gmail.com

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER Y'S FOR RUNNING THIS PROGRAM?

Do not be afraid to fail and do not be afraid of the unknown. You do not need to be a scientist, technology specialist, engineer, or mathematician to run successful STEM at your Y. All you need is a willingness to learn and acceptance of the fact that your plans might fail, but you should try nonetheless.

We – the STEM TA team – are here to help and will do anything in our power to assist you in accomplishing your goals. I, Patrick, will help any YMCA across the United States, especially Associations in the New England Region. Do not hesitate to reach out to me and I will do what I can for you and your Association. That's a promise!
prosendale@metrowestymca.org

Also, take the STEM pledge on Exchange and check out our page. So many great tools to engage staff, parents, children, and load of resources are at your disposal to get started.

WHAT'S THE BENEFIT TO THE Y?

There are many things happening in our movement, including concerns and issues that will challenge us in the years to come. The world of STEM education is becoming more and more relevant in our schools and for our Y movement. There will be problems in the world, but if we can teach our youth to be problem solvers we will work together to create solutions for a better tomorrow.
