

K
KICKER!
MAGAZINE

SOCCER



**AMERICA
SCORES**

LEADERSHIP

TEAMWORK

self
expression

HERITAGE

RESILIENCE

VOICE

Creativity
COMMUNITY

Fun

CONFIDENCE

SOCIAL
JUSTICE

Performance

GOAL!!

Poetry
Family

2021
POETRY UNITES



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WORD UNSCRAMBLE

How many soccer and poetry words can you unscramble?

¿Cuántas palabras de futbol y poesía puedes descifrar?

rocces _____

eopm _____

tmeawrok _____

nuf _____

riendsf _____

oacch _____

TIC-TAC-TOE

Let's play Tic-Tac-Toe!
¡Jugamos Tic-Tac-Toe!



Dear America SCORES poet-athletes,

Congratulations on being a leader in training. Not many young people have the patience and ambition that you possess. You all inspire me to put my game face on when I challenge the world. Though you all are beams of light, the adult world has grumpy grown-ups and boring corporations. Here are my three secrets for surviving through the unknown world of adulthood.

1) Be Bold!

When you get older, people (for some reason I have not yet understood) get lazy, lackluster, and careless. These people can discourage some and inspire others. I need this to motivate you. To empower you and break the silence of stale life and be electricity. Be loud and fierce about what and who you love. Tell the world about your family's country. Tell us about what needs to be known, remembered, and loved. Tell us everything. I promise we will listen. We need voices and change-makers. Luckily at America SCORES, everyone has the potential to be one!

2) Stay around people who love you!

Yeah, when people see you being a relentless leader, they're going to discourage you, but so what? If the energy isn't positive, you don't need to be concerned about it. Disconnect from people that don't support you and stay close to love. Love inspires you, makes you work harder, and is honest. Love is going to hold you accountable and bring out the best in you. Always invest in love.

3) Invest in yourself!

My last piece of advice is to use your free time to invest in yourself! I don't care how old you are. Whether you're 7, 17, or 70, each second matters and can be an investment into your future self. Invest in your future writing-self and read a book in your free time. Invest into the future professional soccer player version of you and play outside every day. Investments can even be spending time with your loved ones. Whatever you do, reflect on how you could be advancing your future self. (Gotta look out for the most real one, and that's you, poet-athlete!)

I've been waiting for an audience to share these pieces of advice with, and you all are most deserving. Thank you, America SCORES students for being unstoppable superstars and brilliant poet-athletes. This world needs many more young voices and athletes.

P.S. If you ever need a friend to send poems to, email them to me at maarjannaderi@gmail.com. I promise to take a look.

Peace and Blessings.

Your mentor,
Marjan Naderi



America SCORES inspires youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world.

A International youth development nonprofit, America SCORES provides free after-school programs and summer camps that builds teams through a unique combination of soccer, poetry, and service learning. America SCORES empowers thousands of poet-athletes to find their voices and develop the confidence to make a difference in the world.

During the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice, America SCORES helped keep poet-athletes safe, supported, connected, and hopeful even while school buildings were closed. In 2020 alone, SCORES put on over 100,000 hours of virtual workshops and programming attended by many thousands of young people, and distributed more than 5,000 free player kits.

248
SCHOOLS



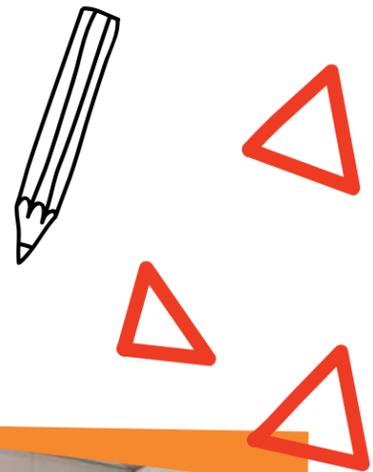
5518
PLAYER KITS PACKED



100,150
VIRTUAL SESSION HOURS



6233
POET ATHLETES



From Poet-Athlete to Community Mentor

Daisha has been a coach for America SCORES St. Louis since 2018, but her story with America SCORES starts much earlier than that - she is also a proud alum of America SCORES St. Louis! She joined as a SCORES poet-athlete in the 4th grade in the 2009-2010 school year. Daisha remembers her favorite moments as a poet-athlete were when she was able to learn about poetry - having a chance to explore different rhymes and raps helped her find a new passion for self-expression.

“The most important thing I learned is to remember who you are and where you come from.”

During her year at SCORES as a poet-athlete, the things Daisha learned about poetry, soccer, and speaking up stuck with her. After graduating high school, she began taking classes at St. Louis Community College, where she decided to come back to America SCORES. This time, she wanted to be a role model for a new generation of poet-athletes and to teach them the same important lessons she learned in 4th grade.

“Anything you do, do it from the heart because your passion is what makes you, you.”

Today, Daisha coaches a team at America SCORES St. Louis partner school Washington Elementary. She loves her poet-athletes and wants them to remember that anything is possible as long as they believe in themselves. Daisha says that being a part of America SCORES all those years ago was a truly unique experience, and being able to inspire new generations is what she appreciates the most. ■



2021 Spotlight!

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE POET-ATHLETES,
COACHES, AND TEAMS WHO MAKE
AMERICA SCORES GREAT

Navigating Online Learning with Pilsen Academy



Even through the pandemic, America SCORES Chicago's team at Pilsen Academy has continued to provide important afterschool programming for all their poet-athletes!

Everyone at Pilsen Academy was so excited to kick off a whole year of amazing SCORES fun at the start of 2020 with expansions planned for in-person programming along with a brand new "Bike Club." After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Pilsen Academy had to make quick decisions to adjust for a virtual learning environment.



In the spring, Pilsen Academy hosted asynchronous learning sessions where poet-athletes had a chance to learn anything from soccer and poetry to Zumba or drumline! Families were also encouraged to get involved with their "Family Zumba Nights" and Family Paint Classes. Over the summer, poet-athletes were able to join in on Virtual Summer Camps, and Pilsen Academy made sure all their poet-athletes had access to any supplies they needed.

The excitement didn't stop there! As Pilsen Academy started their Fall season, they were able to provide their students with over 100 supply and activity kits, and they ended their season with a virtual party. Pilsen poet-athletes really had a chance to shine as they showed off everything they learned over the fall season. After school Parent Assistant Juanita Romero remembers the event fondly, "All the coaches and kids did a great job, and everyone just had a great energy the whole time. The kids will definitely remember this experience for a long time!"



While 2020 programming didn't go as planned for Pilsen Academy, everyone really knew how to make the most out of a tough situation. Pilsen Academy's Resource Coordinator Amy Thayer says that, "the switch to virtual programming has definitely created a strong focus on providing tangible supplies and prizes to engage our students." America SCORES coaches at Pilsen Academy helped their poet-athletes stay connected not just online, but at home as well by sending supplies for any activities they could participate in.

Poet-athletes were still able to engage virtually thanks to the support from Pilsen Academy! Parents of poet-athletes Adam, Andy, Alyssa, and Aydelle had great things to say about Pilsen Academy's approach to a virtual year of SCORES: "The transition to the America SCORES virtual afterschool program was very valuable to our family. It was an ideal way to keep our children engaged given the situation. I strongly feel that it was rewarding for both our children and us as parents. To see our kids happy made us happy also!" ■



Coach Jordan Talks About Connecting During the Pandemic



When she joined America SCORES Cleveland last year, Coach Ariel Jordan was excited to be a role-model for her poet-athletes at A.B Hart School. She was drawn to America SCORES because it was a chance for her to give back to the communities she cared about, and it was impossible not to get involved. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic changed a lot of the things she looked forward to, but that hasn't stopped her from making great memories alongside her team!

America SCORES Cleveland was able to adjust to a rapid switch to virtual learning thanks to the efforts of their coaches. Coach Jordan says that COVID has encouraged her to be more creative: "There are so many things to consider these days to assure safety but also to make the most of the opportunities we do have to connect."



Every week, AS Cleveland coaches are working to post YouTube tutorials for poet-athletes to practice their skills on their own time and hosting virtual learning sessions that have kept poet-athletes engaged at home. She says that watching her students participate enthusiastically in virtual SCORES programming after a long day of virtual school has really humbled her. "NOTHING beats connecting in person, but virtual programming has been incredibly nourishing. Poet-athletes have a genuine desire to be involved."

Throughout this past year, having to do virtual programming has influenced the way Coach Jordan thinks about her role as a mentor for her poet-athletes: "A major theme has been: sometimes things do not go according to plan, and sometimes there's little control we have over that." She talks about how at times it's okay to move away from a rigid schedule, and that meant adjusting to how her poet-athletes were feeling in each session.

Even though the setting was non-traditional, Coach Jordan was still able to be there for her poet-athletes when they needed her the most. One of her favorite moments was during a virtual session when two poet-athletes were sharing their poetry: "The voice, the passion—y'all, these young scholars motivated a strengthened appreciation of poetry for me." But really, she could name a favorite movement with any of the poet-athletes she's mentored!

Coach Jordan looks forward to being able to meet with her poet-athletes in person soon. She misses being able to have face-to-face connections with the students she mentors, but hopes that life can return to normal sometime this year. Until then, she continues to work with her poet-athletes virtually and in limited in-person spaces to make sure they feel safe, supported, and connected! ■

**AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK -
COACHING FOR CHANGE ACADEMY
WITH NIKE**

In August of 2020, America SCORES New York launched a brand new initiative titled the Coaching for Change Academy, powered by Nike. It is a year-long professional development and mentoring academy for youth coaches between the ages of 16-21 all over New York City! Youth Coaches are able to build peer-to-peer relationships, gain an introduction to coaching through digital seminars, and earn certifications in coaching and other subjects. Throughout the program, the Academy Coaches have been gaining experience with coaching through video blogs, community maps, and lesson plans. Much of their progress is being documented on social media as well, and we're looking forward to seeing these young coaches make a difference in their communities!

**Check Out these Quotes From the
Youth Coaches!**



"Sports have always been one of my outlets to work out my stress or frustration and when I commit to doing something, I always work my hardest. Being in a leadership position with Coaching for Change Academy and being able to build up my skills, especially in the field that I

am working towards, is really essential"
Ayanna

"I wanted to be a Coaching for Change Academy youth coach because I want to see the younger players improve both skillfully and mentally - I can relate to those who have the drive to improve"

Erick



"I see the Coaching for Change Academy as an opportunity to improve myself and add more value to the team and I want to improve my coaching ability to help others this year." **Emmanuel**



**BOSTON SCORES -
POETS FOR GOOD PROGRAM**

Last season, Boston SCORES launched their Poets for Good program! Poets for Good fosters students' entrepreneurial mindset and allows them to create social impact in their community. During the program, students learn about loans, marketing, customer service, and more. Combining these skills and their creativity, students are able to put a business idea to life and begin selling a product they created. Profits from the sale of products supports student business teams and the charities they choose to partner with.

"The purpose of Poets for Good was to give students the opportunity to connect with each other and with other students from different schools... while also giving back to the community"

Gabrielle DeAngelis,
Middle School Enrichment Coordinator



**Meet one of the
budding entrepreneurs!**

Tali is a Boston SCORES poet-athlete, and co-founder of Chapeau Affamé (The Hungry Hat), a streetwear brand that has partnered with the Greater Boston Food Bank. 60% of proceeds from Chapeau

Affamé go directly to the Greater Boston Food Bank to help serve communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tali says her time with Boston SCORES had helped her learn to be herself and explore her passions.

Learn more about their work:
Website: <https://www.chapeauaffame.com>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/chapeauaffameofficial/>



SOCCER

I see myself when I play
If I do something wrong, the haters gonna hate
I go after the ball, like a lion that chases everything
I want to score more than anything

When I make a mistake
I feel like I messed up
My team gives me a break
Even though they know I'm so fresh son

I love to run and I love to score
When the air hits my face
Its hits hard like a cinder block
I might get a concussion
My head is tough like a rock

A breath when I'm shocked
Or when I'm scared
It's like I found something super rare

I go after the ball
No I don't quit
Never,
Not the slightest bit

If I'm thirsty
A take a small break to sit
But not long
Just only a min

When my team needs me
I go to them and help
We all work together
Like glue and stick gel

I play and practice, when I have time to practice
My mind is sharp, like an Arizona cactus

I love this sport
It's fun and better than doing any chore
Invite me to your scrimmages in the summer
And I'll show you how I score

ALFRED H.
4th Grade
Boston SCORES

JUSTICE FOR ALL



BLM

Black Lives Matter
We have to mix together like batter
Police and blacks have to make better
relationships or we will shatter
Black Lives Matter
We have to stand up for the better
We have to end this madness with sweet
children laughter
Black Lives Matter
Police crimes are spreading faster than
blacks can scatter
We have to make things better for the
next chapter
Black Lives Matter

ERICK H.
5th Grade
America SCORES New York

ALLYSHIP

Allyship.
A way you can be an ally is if someone is down,
Don't wait.
Do something.
Allyship is helping.
Allyship is kindness.
Allyship is made by the heart.

ANGELIA E.
5th Grade
Canada SCORES Vancouver

I WISH

I wish so hard to the moon and back
That we'd change our mannerisms
In all of our communities
There would be no more racism.

People judge me by my skin color
I wish they would not bother
Talking 'bout people's clothes
Do not listen! It does not matter

Because someone had a dream
His name--Martin Luther King
We can go to the same school
We can share our poetry
And be friends - don't you see?

Listen up!

If we do all these things together
We can destroy racism forever
And
That's not a bad thing, whatsoever.

CEDRIC B.
4th Grade
America SCORES Milwaukee

VOTING

WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING IT GIVES US A VOICE
I KNOW WE ARE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE A CHOICE

IF YOU VIEWING ELECTIONS THROUGH A NARROW LENS
THEN PUT ON YOUR BIFOCALS AND VIEW IT AGAIN

IT'S NO JOKE SO LET'S COME TOGETHER
BLACK, BROWN, WHITE AND LET'S MAKE IT BETTER

VOTING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT MAKE CHANGE
IN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN IT'S NOT A GAME

WE VOTE FOR PEOPLE WITH IDEAS WE TRUST
AND HAVE THE SAME VIEWS ON THE WORLD AND LIFE AS US

WHEN YOU ARE AN ADULT YOU HAVE A CHOICE
WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE

SO, TAKE OUT SOME PAPER AND MAKE A NOTE
TO REMIND YOURSELF 4 YEARS FROM NOW, GO AND VOTE

AMIR H., MAXIMUS B., ALEXANDER B.
KIPP DC: Quest Academy
DC SCORES

I DREAM, YOU DREAM, WE ALL DREAM

I dream that people stop being mean
we are all the same.
I wish we wouldn't have a war about race.
We are all the same, it doesn't matter about your skin color.
I think we need to have the same rights.
Freedom feels like not being told what to do.
Freedom looks like the waves at the beach moving slowly
or having fun while rolling around in the grass.
I dream to make the world a better place
this includes clean air, clean water and clean land.
I can have fun while helping the Earth.
I hope one day everyone will want to get together and make
the world a better place.

ICS/TCN
4th Grade
America SCORES Bay Area

Proud to be

ME!

Don't Touch My Hair

Puffy and small
Don't touch.
My hair can shrink or be big as day.
Don't touch my hair.
My hair, very unique, amazing to me.
When strangers meet me they are in awe.
you're curious I see but this is only the black
girl magic in me.

AALIYAH A.
5th Grade
America SCORES St. Louis

What Makes Me Special

I am special because I am athletic
Funny and kind
Those are things that keep me alive
I am special because I think for myself
Make my own decisions
I am special because I have a great family who loves me
A father, a brother, a mother
Who are special to me

CARLOS H.
4th Grade
America SCORES Los Angeles

Nairobi

I am Nadriya
I am from Nairobi
People call me Nairobi because I
look like a Narwhal
Narwhals are nice
Never nervous
I am the nicest Narwhal from Nairobi
you will ever meet

NADRIYA H.
4th Grade
America SCORES Seattle

Jeralyis's Rainbow Sky

I am a rainbow
So bright and blue
when you see me
I see you.

I am a rose so
pretty as can be
like a swan so
elegant and pretty
Never dark like a cloud

Always light as the sun
Bright pink like the stars
but never dark as black
I'm a Lamborghini fast and cool
I'm not a slugbug
Slow and junky

People don't understand
I like me for me
You can't change me
into who you want me to be.

JERAYLIS R.
6th Grade
America SCORES Cleveland

I Am Somebody

I am Somebody
I may be a different culture,
I do not look like you or speak like you.
But I am somebody.
I may be a different color,
I am not like everyone else.
But I am somebody.
I feel powerful when I stand up for myself.
I feel inspired to be a team player.
I am scared when someone makes fun of
my culture
and when I am treated differently.
I am proud to be beautiful and strong.
I am somebody that believes in
God and second chances.
I am me, myself, and I -- beautiful, kind,
and proud.

ASIAYANA A.
5th Grade
America SCORES Bay Area

Where I'm From

I'm from India
Where I see nature.
Who holds the 2nd most people in the whole world.
Where it has greenery to see
And connects to the sea
And my home country by me.
I am Aadiv and in India I'm free.

AADIV C.
4th Grade
Canada SCORES Vancouver

They Thought

They said I couldn't do it
They thought I couldn't succeed
Challenges are a part of life
And I have the tools that I need.

I had lots of struggles
Like all these bullies around me still do
Because they won't quit what they do that's true

They keep trying to push me down hard
Cause they think I'm light like a card
I'm not falling anytime soon
Cause I don't quit doing my part

And I will push through everyday
Because that's what I do
I don't care what they say
And that's what you should do too.

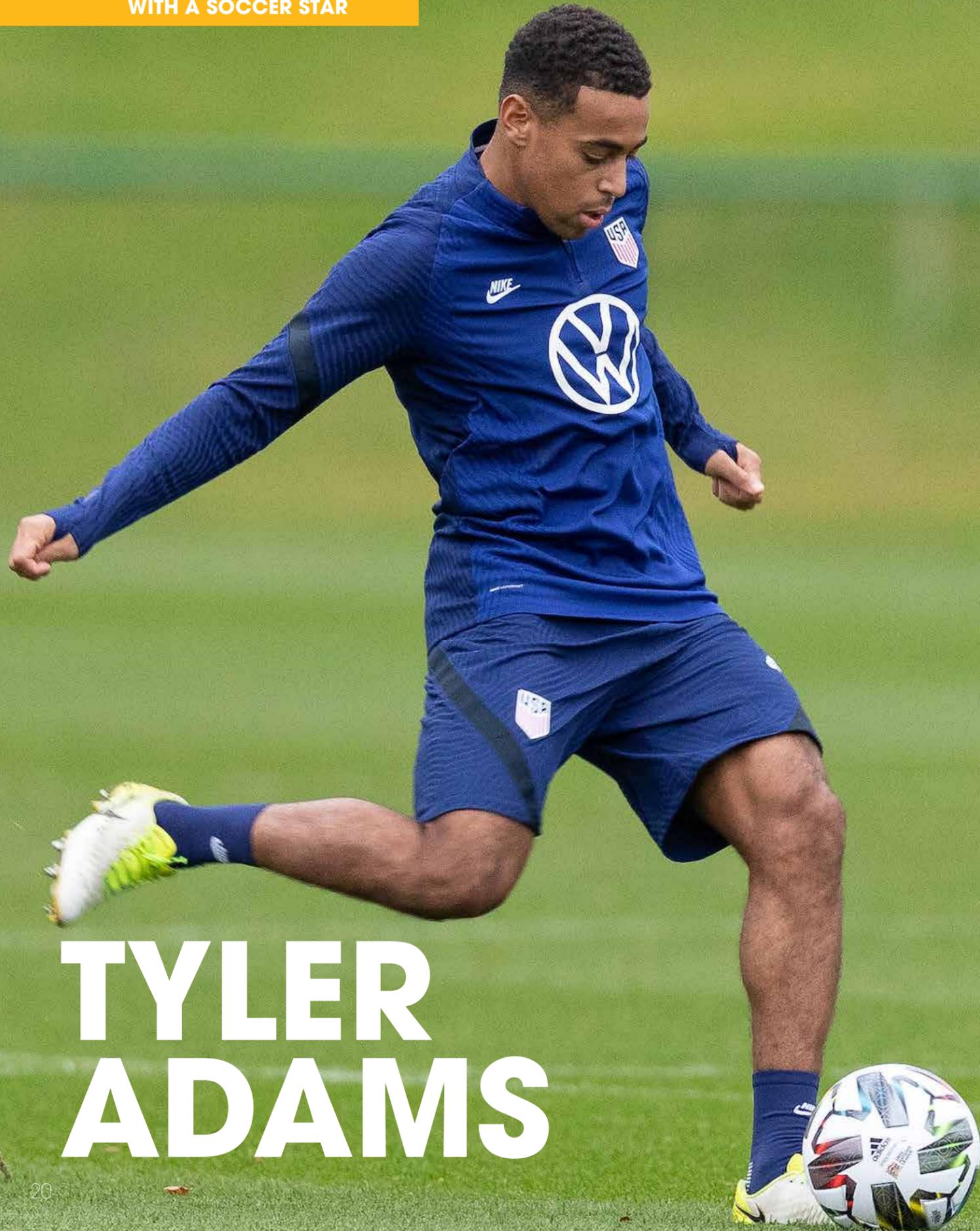
When I have struggles it is very disappointing
And when I start to call them out they start pointing
At me saying all these bad things
Only negative thoughts that it brings

And I tell them "haters back off"
because I know how you act.
I'm nothing like that
And that's an absolute fact

I want to know why
Cause sometimes they make me cry
By doubting me
They don't know that I can Fly

I don't stay down for long
Because if I don't get up I won't succeed
I keep getting stronger
So in the right direction I can lead

JENDAYI B.
4th Grade
Boston SCORES



TYLER ADAMS



Tyler Adams is a professional soccer player currently playing for RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga. He went professional with the New York Red Bulls II at the age of 16 before joining The New York Red Bulls first team. Tyler also plays for the U.S. Men's National Team and has been preparing for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifying. He is a Volkswagen Ambassador who has committed to help support America SCORES mission of making soccer accessible to all young people in the United States.

What is it like to play soccer professionally?

It's such a blessing to play the game I love for a living and also have a platform to try and help my community and the causes I'm passionate about.

Who were your role models growing up? Were there any soccer players you looked up to?

In general, seeing how hard my mom worked helped me establish a strong work ethic at an early age. In terms of soccer, Thierry Henry was who I looked up to on the field and motivated me to keep progressing as a player.

What or who inspired you to play soccer professionally?

The support system my family provides was really influential in not only encouraging me to go after my dream, but also helping to make it happen. For example, I still didn't have a driver's license when I first turned pro, so my mom would drive me the 70 miles to training every day.

For you, what does it mean to be a leader on and off the pitch?

It's so important to me in both respects. On the pitch, I try to bring the right energy and mentality every day and really lead by example. Off the pitch, I feel a duty to give back and make sure I'm using what soccer has given me to help others and try to inspire the next generation of players.

What advice would you share with America SCORES poet-athletes today?

I think the America SCORES poet-athletes program is great because working hard at both athletics and academics has always been a core principle for me. Even today, I'm still working on my college degree and generally think people should never stop learning. ■





Soccer Field Maze
Take your soccer ball to the other side!
¡Lleva el fútbol a otro lado!



Wacky Word Search

Can you find all the words we hid in this puzzle?

¿Puedes encontrar todas las palabras?

F	W	J	R	B	M	O	V	C	G	A	L	R	K	X
A	F	Z	K	E	A	F	O	O	L	A	O	G	C	W
M	D	X	H	U	C	M	O	N	I	C	M	S	I	E
S	W	I	B	E	M	C	J	V	Z	C	G	L	K	P
L	O	H	D	U	G	T	O	B	X	X	E	H	I	N
G	T	I	N	X	Y	E	G	S	H	N	G	M	X	O
F	R	I	F	W	C	T	P	H	V	R	E	N	I	I
P	T	E	C	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	R	Y	S
Y	J	C	A	V	B	T	T	V	P	E	Y	R	K	S
U	L	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P	Z	F	A	E
C	Z	N	S	A	B	G	N	C	L	T	M	U	K	R
Q	F	P	M	M	H	V	P	C	Q	G	A	N	X	P
T	T	P	Q	A	H	S	P	P	H	K	Y	E	N	X
J	K	P	A	G	L	O	B	C	Q	M	R	Z	R	E
T	R	J	W	N	U	N	B	H	Q	O	B	U	P	C

~~COMMUNITY~~
EXPRESSION
KICK
PRIDE
VOICE

CONFIDENCE
FUN
LEADERSHIP
SOCCER
CREATIVITY

GOAL
POEM
TEAM



Jonathan Mendoza

is a Boston-bred, Chicago-based Jewish and Mexican-American activist, spoken word poet, and social justice educator. He is a National Poetry Slam Champion, winner of the 2018 Sonia Sanchez – Langston Hughes Poetry Prize, and a three-time award winner at the College Union Poetry Slam Invitational. Jonathan is a community organizer for housing justice and youth power with Pilsen Alliance, a teaching artist with I Learn America, and a freelance writer, performer, and educator throughout the U.S. He is a proud anxious Virgo, Greek yogurt enthusiast, and devout believer in the power of young people to change this world for the better. Books, updates, and more information can be found at MendozaPoetry.com and [@JMendoza010](https://twitter.com/JMendoza010) on Twitter and Instagram.

In the summer of 1919, Chicago experienced among the most violent race riots in United States history. Lasting eight consecutive days, it was only halted by a severe onset of rain.

Petrarchan of the Red Summer

I don't think I could tell you of the man,
or of the kids, of how they met, what clash
he might have sought—which rocks he chose to
hush
the boy's buoyant bones, asking them to drown.

I couldn't tell you why they chose to burn
a hospital, or of each rioter's wish,
whether to drive them out or just vanquish
them dead,

but I could tell you of the rain:

of how it tossed against each window as
a thousand tiny G-ds; the white man's wall
(a fear of water), the silence of it all,
the city's temporary Genesis:

how floods have always shushed the loudest
flames—
all bodies now submerged and without names.

When did you first start writing poetry?

It was really early on, in elementary school where I had a couple teachers who encouraged me to participate in poetry competitions. And I did pretty well! My interest ebbed and flowed towards middle and high school where I started to kind of resent poetry as it got more complex and Shakespearean. But then, once I turned 16 or 17, I was exposed to Spoken Word Poetry, Slam Poetry, and performance. That was when I really got hooked and started doing it in a more serious way.

What are your favorite topics to write about?

I write about what I do outside of poetry, which is community organizing, activism, and social justice. So I see poetry as another method of organizing people and mobilizing people and inspiring folks to take action. It often entails educating folks on issues I see, and trying to give some analysis on the injustices and oppression we're seeing, and how we can target them collectively and then hopefully trying to inspire folks to take some sort of action around it. So, in short, I write about anything relating to social justice, especially in a way that I personally have a connection with and can speak on.

Why do you think poetry is important?

I think one of the reasons why I gravitate towards poetry as opposed to more traditional academic writing is because I think the latter is often really confined and limited to our current reality. For example, there's a problem with our government and the options on the table to address them are X, Y, and Z in more traditional forms of writing. I think poetry opens up more opportunity for imagination, both around the origins of the problem and also which solutions can go beyond solving just one problem - poetry is able to address things holistically.

Many people get nervous when they go up on stage to perform, what do you do to stay calm and charismatic when you perform?

I think stage fright is something that never left me, I have just gotten more acclimated to (performance) the more I do it. In terms of more concrete advice, knowing where to focus your eyes and specifically looking at the spaces between chairs or between people's shoulders. People think that you're looking at their eyes or someone next to them, but you're actually staring at a chair. Know what works for you: some people really like eye contact, and they thrive off of that, but really you can play around with it. Be aware of what works for you and run with that.

What inspires you to write poetry?

I have this constant hunger for creativity and performance. I think self-expression in particular is a really beautiful thing to do and to see other people do. I think that probably comes from my family. At least 80% of the people on my dad's side of my family are musicians or artists in some way. My grandfather was a painter, guitarist and singer - he passed that down to my dad, brother, aunt, and cousins - so I've just always had a real appreciation for making things beautiful and making messages beautiful. Also, I've always felt very passionate about social justice and moving and shaping the world to make it better for everyone. If I can do both of those things, that is what really inspires me to write poetry.

What advice do you have for America SCORES poet athletes?

Keep on doing both! I think there are some people that go all-in to artistry, or music, or film, and sometimes deny their other needs and ways to take care of themselves. They can sometimes neglect their own wellness - and physical or emotional health - and that can be really scary and unhealthy. On the other end there are people who are unable to engage enough in intellectual and artistic stimulation, and there is a lot that they also miss out on. So being able to have this balance of playing a sport; socializing, and doing something that feels good for your body - which is really important - and being able to balance that with self expression and creativity. Trying to find ways to do that in your life for the long term is really key. ■



This year, America SCORES hosted our first competitive National Slam. Read the powerful words of the Finalists and winners!

The feature-length documentary, *Our Words Our Cities*, shows the journey of our poet-athletes all the way to the winners' circle. Watch it at: <https://youtu.be/jQbYBipCvwE>

COMMUNITY

My neighborhood where has it gone STRAIGHT DOWN
Hear my frustration

Have you seen what is happening in our neighborhood

Our community frees violence and the fears in children's faces
Grandmothers chasing memories of a past when we could
Knock on a neighbors door and ask
Can you walk my son to school?

Can you help me with my daughter's homework?
You know what I mean
Community

No child left hungry Nor left behind
You see it's not about the money It's about the power of the
mind

Some may say it's for survival
Others may say it's for greed Whatever the case may be

I see that the times are changing And we must change with it
At least hope to change

And plant a seed of positive change Water it, love it, care for it
And watch it grow, grow, grow
And spread this message
I see that times are changing

And so we the children

Need to start living

We need to start giving We need each other
To recover the best of our souls

Make our ancestors glow with PRIDE
I see that the times are changing
But the question is DO YOU?

KARLA U.

6th Grade
America SCORES New York

PEER PRESSURE

Dear Peer Pressure,

Sometimes it's hard to see
Are you my friend or enemy
Because what I want
Is to be the best I can be.

In school you show your ugly side
Asking me to listen to
Dares and challenges
Inside I question.....why?

Sometimes you show me opportunity
Because the choices I make reflect
on me.

You make me feel brave and strong.
Dear Peer Pressure,
I am learning right from wrong

Peer Pressure!
You don't get the last say!
If I'm having a rough day, I
remember to:

L earn
Be O ptimistic
V ulnerable
And E ager to succeed

Peer Pressure.....
You won't get the best of me!

VICTORIA N.

5th Grade
America SCORES Milwaukee



THE ONE AND ONLY

They call me
The small player
The chicken wing slayer
The skilled ball player
Never the one to be The "nay-sayer"
The jelly shaker
The one and onlyShot maker
The back board breaker
The smooth, funny and handsome Girl taker
Not trying to brag, but also...
The 3 point God
The leader of the squad
The one who should be...outlawed
On the flip side...
The cat box cleaner
The apple and cherry pie
The one that's off the meter
The "Hello, good morning" greeter
But never, ever-mistaken as a "cheater"
And those are just a few of the names
They call ME!
The One, The Only...Stacey

STACEY T.
4th Grade
America SCORES Cleveland

A POEM FOR MIA

My life is filled with your smiles
I love it and I can't see it from a mile
I feel your heart pounding next to mine
I see your eyes wide and bright
You are an everlasting light
You bring us all fun and joy
My days are slow when you're not here
I really wish that you were near
But when we go on adventures you sit on my lap
And we try very hard not to take a nap
I love you Mia
My little Sis

APRIL B.
5th Grade
America SCORES Bay Area

THE SWITCH

I am from a bright and cold Place
Where I like to put a smile on every face
Life is full of happiness and love
I'm from a great family
Where our home is filled with love
Through hugs and baking delicious food
I'm also from a very dark place
Far away
Where I see war going on and on
And I see people dying
One by one
I'm from Canada
A happy place now
Where I feel im safe for once in my life
I'm Ali

ALI M.
4th Grade
Canada SCORES Vancouver

IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

If I could change the world I will stop cutting trees
I will stop cutting trees because they make clean air
If they're all gone we will all die
I will feel lonely because I will have no one to talk to
My friend Martin will no longer be around to make my tummy hurt with laughter
I will miss my dad telling me funny stories
I will stop cutting trees because they destroy the habitat for other creatures
Owls and squirrels will be gentrified from their homes by force
Losing your home is a hopeless feeling
You have nowhere else to go
I will stop cutting trees because they will go extinct and they will cease to exist
I imagine growing to the size of the gigantic redwood trees
I will stop cutting trees because they are essential for our planet to survive
If I could change the world I will plant a tree in the empty spaces of the world
Including the hearts and minds of the people who destroy them

HUGO M.
5th Grade
America SCORES Los Angeles

FLOATING

Flowers floating in the sea,
As the waves pass by.
As the sunset rises the flowers sink into the sea.
Petal by petal,
The flowers break hearts.
The journey of the flowers never ends.
As the sand surrounds the sea on every side,
They find a little hole so deep.
Inside the flowers wish to be more and they
are searching for a home.
They will sink alone and deep,
But they will always have me.

NDEYE B.
4th Grade
America SCORES St. Louis



Love, Family

Family

Moms are just like overprotective bears
They care for you
Feed you
Have a home to go to
It's thanks to her

Fathers seem to be cold-hearted
But just like a black bear
They seem cold and nasty
But when you look into their eyes
They love you
They're warm like a volcano

Little sisters are just like a sloth
They learn little by little to walk
Slowly they love you
At the end

Big sisters may act mean like a bull
But if you know them really good
Like a little sister
That big sis will watch over you too

BRUCE-MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Group poem
DC SCORES

Dear Abuelita,

It's me, Cristian.
I only met you once when I was five.
Do you remember me?
I remember you and I have some questions for you too.
Do you like music and do you like to dance?
How did you meet Grandpa? Was it love at first
glance?
Was school hard when you were growing up?
Did you have a favorite class?
How did you feel when my Mom came to America?
Were you happy or were you sad?
What do you think that I should know
About what life is like in Mexico?
Because even though we may be far apart
I think about you all the time
you live with me, in my heart.

CRISTIAN L.
5th Grade
America SCORES Chicago

Mi mama

Mi mama es hermosa como una flor blanca que florece en la primavera
Mi mama es inteligente como Siri porque cuando le hago una pregunta me la contesta
Mi mama es tan fuerte como Wonder Woman porque ella no se rinde y no se da vencida en su trabajo.
Mi mama es como un robot
Ella empieza a trabajar por la mañana y termina por la noche sin parar.
Mi mama tiene unas como una princesa porque las tiene bien arregladas y bonitas.
Mi mama es como una osa cuando tiene que defender a sus crías.
No deja que nada le pase a mis hermanas y a mis sobrinos.
Mi mama es mi heroína.

SOLMARINA M.
4th Grade
America SCORES Milwaukee

What Matters Most

Your family gives you luck
Even when you're stuck
They pick you up when you fall, "whack"
And they always have your back
Your friends make you happy
Even when your tired and nappy
They are just like your
teddy bear
And with them they make you feel the glare
School is cool
And without it you would be a fool
Breathe in writing, social studies, and math
And you'll take the right path
Soccer is a true shocker
And it is also a knocker
It's like a mission, "kick"
To our nutrition
This is what matters to me
Tell me if you agree
I'll be over there drinking tea

HABIBA I.
5th Grade
Boston SCORES

Mom

My mom is so giving
She gave me life
She gives me loves
She gives me food
She gives shelter
She gives me kindness
She gives me courage
That is why I love her.

ADDI S.
5th Grade
America SCORES Seattle

Thanks

Dear Mom,
Thank you for your comfort.
You always make me happy.
I appreciate your love.
I feel lucky because of your cooking.
I want to make you happy.
I remember when we went to the
soccer game. You make me jump for
joy because you are nice. When I am
sad you make me happy.
I hope we get to go out together
again. You make me feel good when
you are here.

IVY L.
5th Grade
Canada SCORES Vancouver

Our Schools!

BAY AREA

**1460 Mission Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103**

Daly City

Panorama Elementary School
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

Hayward

Bowman Elementary School
Burbank Elementary School
Cherryland Elementary School
East Avenue Elementary School
Eden Gardens Elementary School
Eldridge Elementary School
Fairview Elementary School
Faith Ringgold Elementary School
Glassbrook Elementary School
Harder Elementary School
Longwood Elementary School
Lorin Eden Elementary School
Palma Ceia Elementary School
Park Elementary School
Ruus Elementary School
Schafer Elementary School
Southgate Elementary School
Stonebrae Elementary School
Strobridge Elementary School
Treeview Elementary School
Tyrrell Elementary School

Oakland

ASCEND Elementary School
Bridges Academy
Brookfield Elementary School
Elmhurst Middle School
EnCompass Elementary School
Esperanza Elementary School
Fruitvale Elementary School
Global Family Elementary School
Greenleaf Elementary School
Howard Elementary School
International Community School
Korematsu Discovery Academy
Learning Without Limits
Madison Park Primary Academy
Manzanita Community
Elementary School
Manzanita SEED
MLK/Lafayette Elementary School
Prescott Elementary School
Sankofa Elementary School
Think College Now Elementary School

San Francisco "Tenderloin & Civic Center"

Garfield Elementary School
Indochinese Housing
Development Center (IHDC)
John Muir Elementary School
Moscone Elementary School
Redding
Salvation Army KROC Center Tenderloin
Up on Top After School Program

San Francisco "Mission & Crocker"

Alvarado Elementary School
Bessie Carmichael Elementary School
Bret Harte Elementary School
Bryant Elementary School
Cleveland Elementary School
El Dorado Elementary School
ER Taylor Elementary School
Flynn Elementary School

Guadalupe Elementary School
Hillcrest Elementary School
Joseph Lee Recreation Center
Junipero Serra Elementary School
Lakeshore Alternative
Elementary School
Marshall Elementary School
Mission Education Center
Paul Revere Elementary School
Sanchez Elementary School
TECA Elementary School

San Francisco Middle School

Everett Middle School
Francisco Middle School
MLK Jr. Middle School
Paul Revere Middle School
TECA Middle School
Visitation Valley Middle School
Willie Brown Middle School

San Rafael

Bahia Vista Elementary School
Coleman Elementary School
Davidson Middle School
Laurel Dell Elementary School
San Pedro Elementary School
Head Start Short Elementary School
Venetia Valley School K-8

BOSTON

**29 Germania Street,
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130**

Boston Latin Academy
Charles Sumner Elementary School
David A. Ellis Elementary School
Dearborn STEM Academy
Dennis C. Haley Pilot School
Donald McKay K-8 School
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 School
Eliot K-8 Innovation School
Ellison Parks Early Education School
Gardner Pilot Academy
Henry Grew Elementary School
Higginson-Lewis K-8 School
Hugh R. O'Donnell Elementary School
James W. Hennigan K-8 School
John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Joseph J. Hurley K-8 School
Josiah Quincy Upper School
Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School
Mario Umana Academy
Nathan Hale Elementary School
Orchard Gardens K-8 School
Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School
The Mather School
Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School
Washington Irving Middle School
William Monroe Trotter K-8 School

CLEVELAND

**3631 Perkins Ave,
Cleveland, OH 44114**

Albert Bushnell Hart
Artemus Ward
Bethel SDA Church
Boys Hope Girls Hope

Buhrer Dual Language Academy
Franklin D. Roosevelt Academy
Jones Road Family Development
Corporation
Joseph M. Gallagher
Lexington Bell Community Center
Little Critters Too
Marion C. Seltzer
Marion-Sterling
Mary McLeod Bethune
Memorial
Merrick House
Mound STEM
Newton D. Baker School of Art
Robinson G. Jones School
St. Adalbert
Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers
Academy
Wade Park
Warner Girls Leadership Academy
Willson

CHICAGO

**600 W Cermak Rd #204, Chicago, IL
60616**

C.E. Hughes Elementary School
Cardenas Elementary School
Catalyst Maria Charter School
Eli Whitney Elementary School
Hamline Elementary School
LEARN 8 Middle School
Mason Elementary
Mason Elementary
McCormick Elementary School
Orozco Academy
Perez Public School
Pilsen Community Academy
Sumner Math and Sciences
Community Academy
Whittier Dual Language Magnet School

DC

**1140 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 1200,
Washington, DC 20036**

Aiton Elementary School
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School
Anne Beers Elementary School
Bancroft Elementary School
Barnard Elementary School
Boone Elementary School
Brightwood Education Campus
Brookland Middle School
Browne Education Campus
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School
Burrville Elementary School
Capital City Public Charter School
Cardozo Education Campus
Drew Elementary School
Garrison Elementary School
H.D. Cooke Elementary School
Hart Middle School
Ida B. Wells Middle School
Imagine Hope Community Charter School -
Lamond Campus

Imagine Hope Community Charter School -
Tolson Campus
J.C. Nalle Elementary School
Jefferson Middle School
Kelly Miller Middle School
Kimball Elementary School
KIPP DC: AIM Academy
KIPP DC: KEY Academy
KIPP DC: QUEST Academy
KIPP DC: WILL Academy
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus
Leckie Education Campus
Lincoln Middle School
MacFarland Middle School
Marie Reed Elementary School
Miner Elementary School
Park View Recreation Center
Powell Elementary School
Raymond Education Campus
Seaton Elementary School
Sela Public Charter School
Smothers Elementary School
Takoma Education Campus
Thomas Elementary School
Thomson Elementary School
Trinidad Recreation Center
Truesdell Education Campus
Tubman Elementary School
Turner Elementary School
Tyler Elementary School
Van Ness Elementary School
Washington School for Girls
West Education Campus
Whittier Elementary School

LOS ANGELES

**3685 Motor Ave #110, Los Angeles,
CA 90034**

Braddock Drive Elementary
Charnock Road Elementary
Marina Del Rey Middle
Palms Elementary
Pains Middle
Stoner Avenue Elementary

MILWAUKEE

**7101 Good Hope Rd,
Milwaukee, WI 53223**

ALBA Elementary
Brown Street Elementary
Clarke Street Elementary
Gwen T. Jackson Elementary
Hayes Bilingual Elementary
Jeremiah Curtin Leadership Academy
LaFollette Elementary
Lincoln Avenue Elementary
Maple Tree Elementary
Riley Elementary
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

NEW YORK

**520 8th Ave #201c,
New York, NY 10018**

Hamilton Grange Middle School
IS 104 The Fort Hamilton School
IS 121 Nelson A. Rockefeller
IS 95 The Gravesend School
MS 322 The Renaissance
Leadership Academy
MS 324 Patria Mirabal School
MS 443 New Voices School of Academic

and Creative Arts
New Design Middle School
PS 04 The Duke Ellington School
PS 125 The Ralph Bunche School
PS 139 Alexine A Fenty
PS 153 Adam Clayton Powell
PS 173 Dos Puentes Elementary
PS 192 Jacob H Schiff
PS 249 The Caton School
PS 375 The Jackie Robinson School
PS 98 Shorac Kappock
PSMS 161 Pedro Albizu Campos
The Mott Hall School

SEATTLE

**2450 6th Ave S #203,
Seattle, WA 98134**

Bailey Gatzert Elementary
Dunlap Elementary
Maple Elementary
Hawthorne Elementary
Highland Elementary
Roxhill Elementary

ST. LOUIS

**5415 Page Blvd,
St. Louis, MO 63112**

Belnor Elementary
Dunbar Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Lucas Crossing Elementary
Northview Elementary
Obama Elementary
Walbridge Elementary
Washington Elementary

VANCOUVER

**3023-3713 Kensington Avenue,
Burnaby, BC V5B 0A7**

Cedar Hills Elementary
Douglas Road Elementary
Edmonds Community School
Hjorth Road Elementary
Kirkbride Elementary
Lord Kelvin Elementary
Mary Jane Shannon Elementary School
Qayqayt Elementary
Senator Reid Elementary
Stride Avenue Community School
Twelfth Avenue Elementary
Windsor Elementary



Build Your Dream Soccer Team!

¡Crea el equipo de fútbol de tus sueños!

City (Ciudad) _____

Team name (Nombre del equipo) _____

Mascot (Mascota) _____

Draw the Jersey
(Dibuja la camiseta)

Draw the Stadium
(Dibuja el estadio)



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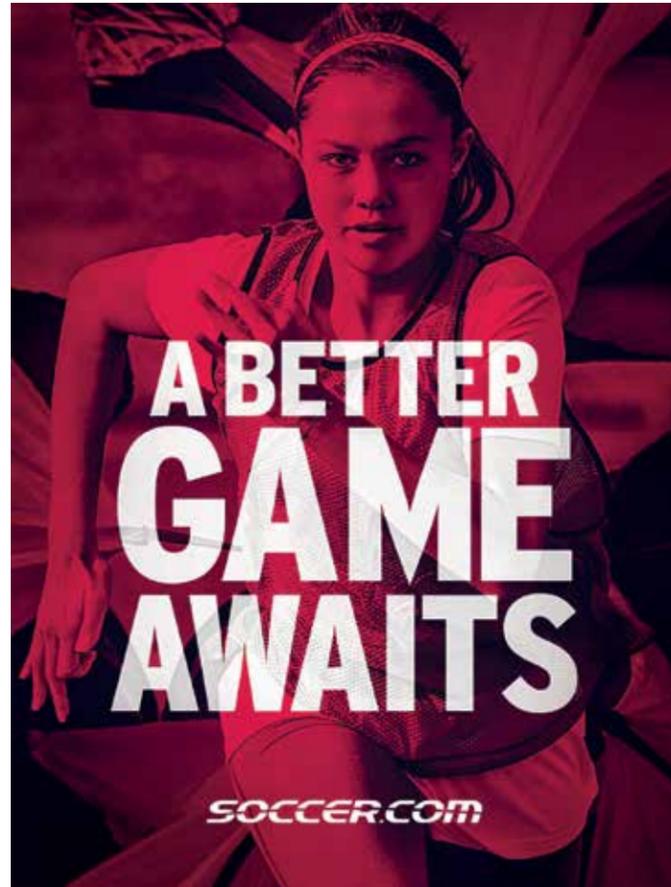
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