



YMCA OF GREENWICH RUNNING START PROGRAM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Running Start is a program aimed at providing local school children with the opportunity to go back-to-school clothes shopping. This program is directly aligned with the YMCA of Greenwich's commitment to nurture the potential of every child and teen.

This program serves children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade, providing them with clothing, shoes, school supplies, and backpacks so they can begin the new school year with confidence.

Each child is paired with a volunteer from the community for a special night of back-to-school shopping at Kohl's. Before they go shopping, they enjoy a pizza party at the Y with other children and parents participating in the program, as well as the volunteer they will spend the night with.

2024 DETAILS

PROGRAM DATES: We will be hosting the program on 4 separate nights in August. The dates available this year are:

- Monday, August 5th, 2024
- Wednesday, August 7th, 2024
- Tuesday, August 13th, 2024
- Thursday, August 15th, 2024

WHERE: Activities begin and end at the YMCA of Greenwich. Children will be transported by busses provided by Greenwich Public Schools to the Kohl's in Portchester, NY and then back to the YMCA of Greenwich after the shopping experience.

TIMELINE

- 5:45PM** Children will arrive at the Y for the pizza party and to meet with the volunteer they will be paired with. Parents and guardians are welcome to join the pizza party.
- 6:30PM** Children and volunteers will board for the buses for their shopping trip.
- 6:50PM** Arrive at Kohl's (431 Boston Post Rd, Port Chester, NY 10573).
- 7:00PM** Shopping at Kohl's.
- 8:15PM** Children and volunteers board the bus to return to the Y.
- 8:45PM** Children arrive back at the YMCA of Greenwich. Parents or guardians should be at the Y by this time to pick up their child.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO ARE THE VOLUNTEERS MY CHILD WILL BE PAIRED WITH?

Volunteers may be YMCA staff or other members of the Greenwich community. All volunteers are required to complete a background check and training to ensure they are safe to be around children.

WHAT MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SAFE?

- All volunteers are required to complete a background check and training to ensure they are safe to be around children.
- YMCA Leadership and Youth Program Directors, oversee the program and shopping trip.
- Children are not allowed in fitting rooms alone with any volunteer.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM?

If you have any financial instability, especially concerning preparing your child for the upcoming school year, then you are welcome to join the program. We understand that many families face challenges, and our goal is to support you and your child during this time. To make it as accessible as possible, we don't do any financial checks or require applications.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD RECEIVE AS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT?

All children in the program receive a \$150 gift card to Kohl's (to be spent during the shopping trip), a back pack full of school supplies provided by Neighbor to Neighbor, and a Running Start t-shirt.