

# Students Run PHILLY Run STYLE

Executive Director  
July, 2022



## **About Students Run Philly Style:**

Students Run Philly Style (SRPS) transforms students' lives through running and mentorship by pairing volunteer running leaders with teams of students to inspire them to push themselves further than they ever imagined. Their goal is the completion of a full or a half marathon. The courage and effort required, the unfailing support of a caring mentor and the thrill of its ultimate achievement results in a student who knows anything is possible.

## **Organizational Philosophy:**

Long distance running is an exercise in endurance. Paired with a supportive mentor who trains alongside them, students prove they can continue to push forward regardless of how far away the finish line may seem. Endurance is habit forming, and as students learn to set and accomplish physical goals, these skills transfer to problem solving elsewhere.

Much like the road to success, long-distance running is not a straight line. There are steps forward and setbacks that arise. To keep moving forward, students must be patient, dedicated, and essentially, resilient. These learned behaviors teach students that success in a race does not depend on being the fastest, but rather on crossing the finish line. By applying these learned behaviors, students learn the value of showing up and troubleshooting challenges. SRPS students learn that the road to success is not always clear, but with persistence and determination, they can create a road to achievement that is ultimately their own.

## **Models:**

Students Run Philly Style recruits students from the School District of Philadelphia and area schools in two models. The School Year model pairs students with mentors to train weekly for up to six hours September through June in preparation for the Blue Cross Broad Street Run in May. The Marathon model pairs students with mentors to train weekly for ten hours March through November in preparation for the Philadelphia Half or Full Marathon in November.

## **Mile Up:**

In partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, SRPS' MileUp program is the first diversion pathway that brings running and mentorship to youth facing delinquency charges who were formerly ineligible for restorative interventions. MileUp prevents long-term system involvement by holding youth accountable while helping them build skills on the way to positive achievement across all aspects of their lives.

Following the SRPS model and with the support of youth advocate staff, volunteer mentors, and peer mentors (who are MileUp alumni and/or have been involved with the juvenile justice system), MileUp students train to complete milestone races, earn gear along the way, receive ongoing case management and family support, and complete an end-of-season reflection based in restorative justice practices. MileUp is designed to run in two cohorts per year (Spring and Fall), with the goal to complete either the Broad Street Run or the Philadelphia Half Marathon. Students who complete all milestone races and reflection receive paid restitution, have their charges dropped and record expunged.

### **OUTPace:**

Students Run Philly Style improves health outcomes and increase protective factors for 300 LGBTQ+ Pennsylvania youth by providing inclusive, informed support via the organization's research-based mentoring services. SRPS serves Philadelphia youth, aged 11-21, 19% of whom self-identify as a sexual minority. LGBTQ+ youth experience increased health disparities due to toxic bias and stigma; when compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers, they face an increased risk of negative behavioral health outcomes such as depression, substance abuse and suicide.

### **Philadelphia Distance Run:**

In 1978, the leaders of the Philadelphia running community had a vision to build one of the greatest races in the country. Under their leadership, the race grew to be the fastest half marathon in the country, a race where elite runners from all over the world came to Philadelphia and competed. In 2021, SRPS partnered with Philadelphia Runner and Runhouse to re-launch the race under its original name, the Philadelphia Distance Run. Together they have started to write the next chapter in the event's illustrious history. Profits from the event go to directly support SRPS students.

Students Run Philly Style is seeking an Executive Director to lead the organization into the future with a focus on strategic leadership, financial sustainability, program development, operations, culture, and community relations.

Additional details about Students Run Philly Style and its programs can be found on its website: <https://studentsrunphilly.org/>.

### **Key Relationships:**

**Reports to:** Board of Directors

**Direct Reports:** Program Director and Development Director

**Location:** Philadelphia, PA

## **Responsibilities:**

The Executive Director will be responsible for leadership of the following areas:

- **Strategy Development:** Set organizational strategy and drive SRPS to set and achieve its goals.
- **Operations:** Manage organizational and program operations with a focus on strategy, budget, and organizational effectiveness.
- **Fundraising:** Raise funds and generate interest around SRPS's work and programs.
- **Program Management:** Effectively manage SRPS's programs with a focus on mission and driving participation.
- **Working with the Board:** Leverage the Board's expertise and relationships to further SRPS's mission and reach.
- **Communications:** Serve as the primary spokesperson for SRPS internally and externally.
- **Relationship Building:** Create new and nurture existing relationships with staff and Board as well as external partners and sponsors.
- **People Management:** Effectively manage the SRPS team and relationships with partners with a focus on nurturing a transparent, collaborative, and inclusive culture.
- **Passion:** Share passion and enthusiasm for SRPS's mission and work with students, staff, Board and community.

## **Desired Experience and Expertise:**

- A track record of successful organizational leadership including strategy creation and execution.
- Strong fiscal management including planning, budgeting, and evaluation.
- A track record of exceptional management experience including the ability to prioritize and manage multiple initiatives at once.
- The proven ability and willingness to raise funds on behalf of an organization.
- Strong and effective program management aligned with mission.

- The ability to identify and cultivate partners to advance program goals and activities.
- A proven ability to work closely and effectively with a Board and diverse staff.

**Desired Personal Characteristics:**

- Passion for an organization with true social impact, changing lives and transforming communities.
- A collaborative and inclusive leader with integrity and energy.
- A love of interacting with young people, both to celebrate their successes and to challenge them to improve.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Possessing an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Detail-oriented and organized, with the ability to set priorities and be an effective team member.
- Goal-oriented with the ability to track and measure progress through measurable outcomes.
- Placing value on diversity and transparency.
- The ability to share ideas and foster a culture of collaboration.
- Adaptable, flexible, and nimble.
- A passion for running or athletics, and/or an understanding of youth athletics is a plus.

Nominations and applications, including resume should be directed to [cdisston@disstonsearch.com](mailto:cdisston@disstonsearch.com).

***Students Run Philly Style is an equal opportunity employer and hires without consideration of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or disability. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply.***