Students Run Philly Style transforms students’ lives through running and mentorship. We pair students with adult volunteer Mentors to train together to run a long-distance race.

MISSION

Students and Mentors train up to 10 hours weekly March - November to run the Philadelphia Half or Full Marathon in November.

In partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, MileUp uses our mentoring model to offer an evidence-based diversion option for youth facing delinquency charges.

MileUp improves health outcomes and increases protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth by offering inclusive, informed support and specific LGBTQ+ programming.

Students and Mentors train up to 6 hours weekly September - June to run the Blue Cross Broad Street Run in May.

PROGRAMS

Marathon Model

MileUp

OUTPace

School Year Model
OUR IMPACT

80% of students with increased resilience maintained or decreased levels of stress

93% of students maintained or increased future aspirations

87% of students maintained or increased healthy attitudes

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2022 BY THE NUMBERS

- 11,000+ Students mentored since 2004
- 1,421 Medals earned
- 2,417 Finish lines crossed
- 961 Pairs of Diadora sneakers earned
- 74,218 Miles run by students & mentors

1,026 Students mentored
19 Staff members
412 Volunteer mentors
UNITING OUR COMMUNITY

New in 2022, SRPS' monthly Represent & Run series celebrated the diversity within our community. SRPS is often the largest, most diverse group at races we attend. At the individual and team levels, however, our mentors and students may find they are the "only" (or one of few), as our teams sometimes reflect the homogeneousness and segregation faced by many schools, neighborhoods and communities in Philadelphia.

Each month, SRPS hosted a fun group run celebrating members of a specific community while educating ourselves on the culture of its people, and highlighting their contributions to our collective history.
A HISTORIC FIRST

For the first time, in 2022, all races in which students participated included non-binary options for enrollment. In many races, non-binary youth held placing categories and opportunities for prizes which were equal to their peers.

OUTPace provides LGBTQ+ students and student allies with resources, activities and welcoming spaces from which they can build their self confidence, expand their communities by meeting others like themselves and learn life skills to overcome challenges.
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 formally 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.

- **93%** of enrolled students successfully completed the program.
- **7** Milestone races completed.
- MileUp students participated in the Broad Street Run and Marathon Weekend races for the first time in program history.
SRPS’ biggest fundraising event, Extra Mile, kicked off Philadelphia Distance Run (PDR) weekend on September 16.

SRPS is a co-owner of the PDR and Extra Mile brought together our supporters, mentors, board of directors and PDR runners to celebrate youth mentorship. Five Below graciously hosted the event at their corporate headquarters, where more than 350 attendees enjoyed food and drink provided by local Philly businesses.
Students and mentors ran around Lemon Hill and after each lap had the option to eat a serving of water ice or ice cream to gain an extra raffle ticket toward event prizes.

Normally clad in blue, Brooks helped turn one of our students’ favorite summer events into a sea of green this year by providing participants with a pair of shoes, a green SRPS x PDR tech shirt, and a running hat.
During the season, students earn the sneakers that take them across the finish line. With the right gear and the support of their mentors, our students build resilience and unlock their goals and their potential.
“Keep moving your legs, it’s not over yet!” A sixteen year old me said. I completely sprinted to the end. It did not matter that my legs were hurting and I wanted to lay down on the asphalt, I just kept running.

Before joining SRPS, I was not really an active person. When I started running, I had to overcome an infinity of challenges that, to this day, I still have to work on. One of those challenges was mentality. Mentality for me is one of the most important skills you have to have, not only for running but for everything in general.

I used to give up mentally in the middle of the race, but running has taught me not to give up on things just because they seem “too much.” My legs are never too tired, the pain is mental. A person’s mentality decides your outcome. Do not let your thoughts control you, control them and you will see a true change.

Running meant, means, and will mean a lot of things for me. It made me feel safe within a community. I was able to make several friends due to this sport, and Students Run made me realize that if I want to do something, I am able to do it. It changed the way I confront challenges. Sometimes stepping out of your comfort zone can change you in a good way. It will never matter how challenging the goal is if I want to reach it.

- Michelle, age 17
SUPPORT YOUTH MENTORSHIP