

# STREET SQUASH news

Vol. 7 no.5

StreetSquashers get out and about for summer '08!

Winter 2009



Dalton, staffer Chris Tom, An-Khe, Raymond, and Amar arrive at Dudley for session two.

**“Sometimes two good things come together perfectly.** This is the case with Camp Dudley and StreetSquash... thanks, in part, to Peter Karlen. A former Camp Dudley camper, Pete Karlen was working for StreetSquash back in the early 2000's when he had the bright idea to bring Dudley and StreetSquash together. And why not? After a few phone calls and several dozen applications, a group of StreetSquashers headed to the shores of Lake Champlain and a friendship was born.

StreetSquashers like Carlos Soler, Kevin Espino and David Nash came in the early years and moved up through the Dudley ranks and into leadership roles, building a tradition, as well as strong ties here. In addition to quiet leadership, these boys brought their experiences of life in New York City and their dreams, goals and commitment to the sport of squash to share with campers from around the country and world.

The year 2008 saw the first girl come to Camp Dudley at Kiniya through StreetSquash. In 2009, the Dudley camps hope to welcome a total of five campers through the StreetSquash connection.”

-Peggy Bolster, Camp Dudley Staffmember

(Dudley feature continues on page 4)

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member of:

**nusea**  
National Urban Squash and  
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## Where did StreetSquashers Go in Summer 2008?

### HIKING & OUTDOORS CAMPS

Windsor Mountain International in Windsor, NH:

Rokya Samake  
Isamar Rodriguez  
Fatou Thiam

Camp Dudley at Kiniya in Colchester, VT:  
Azania Floyde

Outward Bound in Maine:  
Daequan Washington  
Sion Sennon

Longacre Leadership Program in Newport, PA:  
Julian Hackney  
Jazmin Matos  
TJ Clements

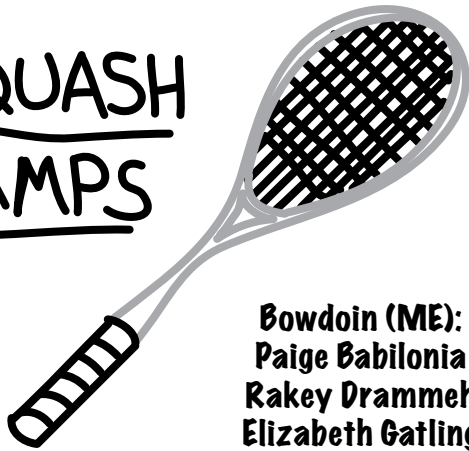
Camp Wilbur Herrlich in Patterson, NY:  
Maiyah Rushing  
Zena Bowden

Summer Search Trips:  
Rakey Drammeh, Science at Sea in Woods Hole, MA  
Peter Mitchell, Outward Bound in Oregon

Camp Dudley in Westport, NY:  
Tariq Holland, Amar Moorner, Sha-Real Nix,  
Dalton Rodney, An-Khe Tomer,  
Raymond Moore

**StreetSquash sent kids on 47 trips.  
These trips were to 10 different states.  
We also sent kids to Mexico,  
the Caribbean and the  
United Kingdom.**

# SQUASH CAMPS



**Bowdoin (ME):**  
Paige Babilonia  
Rakey Drammeh  
Elizabeth Gatling  
Guytaul Bennett

**Pomfret (CT):**  
Jazmin Matos  
Samantha Matos

**Princeton (NJ):**  
Raymond Moore  
Noah McCall

**Episcopal (VA):**  
Talise Hall  
Jennifer Moses  
Rosemary Hidalgo  
Diosmiry Rodriguez

**Dartmouth (NH):**  
Henry Spicer  
Daequan Washington

**Williams (MA):**  
Dachelle Parker  
Kenneth Blassingame  
Arthur Garfield

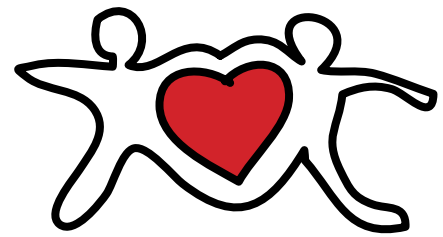
**Chatham (NJ):**  
Julian Hackney  
Raheem Logan  
Nicholas Nicholson

**Navy (MD):**  
Rakey Drammeh

**National Urban Squash and Education Association Camp (MA):**  
Shaheem Perry  
Patricia Hall  
Toshar Melville  
Sion Sennon

**Universal Squash Camp (United Kingdom):**  
Joshua Gary  
Ayanna Hall

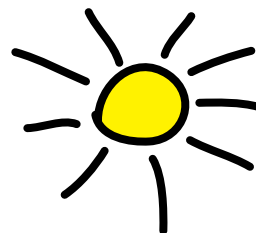
# SERVICE



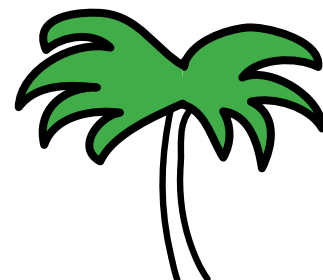
**Windsor Mountain Bridges Program in the Caribbean: Jamel Key**

**Windsor Mountain service trip to Mexico: Paige Pabilonia**

# THE BEACH



**Family Vacation in Florida: Cody Levy**



Academic Tutoring • Literacy Enrichment • Squash Instruction • Community Service • Mentoring



# Get Involved!

Volunteering with StreetSquash is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a difference in the lives of New York City's youth. We are looking for academic tutors, squash instructors and mentors to join the StreetSquash family. If interested please email Sareen Pearl at [sareen@streetsquash.org](mailto:sareen@streetsquash.org).



## First Year at Dudley

Camp Dudley was a great experience for me. I got to meet a lot of people from around the world. I played a lot of new sports that I never did before. I also got a chance to see what life was like without my parents and eat really good food.

I stayed in a cabin with five other kids: Griffin, Chris, Ryan, Preston, and Kyle. I had an aid named Will, a leader named Reid, and a junior leader named Patrick, better known as 'Chief.'

The first few days I was nervous so I just talked to my best friend Tariq. Then by the third day I started talking to my cabinmates. I made one really good friend named Andrew. Me and Andrew hung out a lot. We played basketball, lacrosse, and football.

While I was at camp I tried archery for the first time. It was very interesting. I shot two bullseyes on my first day. I was so close to getting "American archer" but then we had to leave. The saddest part of camp was leaving. You get so close to the people that you get very sad when you leave. I was close to crying when all my friends left and went home. I hope I get to see all of them next year.

-Sha-Real Nix, team 5

## Second Year at Dudley

**C**amp Dudley is a great camp. That's why I decided to return for a second year. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew what to look forward to. In my first year, as a junior, I got to do a lot of fun things like archery and go on a three day canoe trip. However, as a senior in my second year at Dudley, I got to do and experience so much more.

I got to do more and make different decisions than in the previous year. As a junior, my individual major was sailing and I loved it. The next year my individual major became rock climbing. My art major in my junior year was the *Dudley Doings Publications*, writing stories for the camp newspaper. In my second year, my art major was photography. My team major for both years was water polo. In my second year, I almost chose something other than water polo because it was hard, but I persevered and decided to choose it again.

A nice thing about going back to Dudley was seeing my friends. Although I was not in the same cabin as my friends from the previous year, we still got to hang out. I made new friends too.

Another highlight was the three day trip. My senior year trip was rock climbing. We found an area where we go swimming and there was a huge cliff that we jumped off. My senior trip was more fun than my junior trip.

My favorite part of the entire camp was the Senior Night Experience. That was a night when the seniors had to walk through the woods and follow a path in the middle of the night. We were given a whistle and we had a choice to take a flashlight.



Team 5 Member Sha-Real (bright red shirt) with friends from Dudley.



No one from my cabin decided to take a flashlight. It was more fun that way. The woods were so dark you were not able to see your hands in front of your face. We had to use our senses of touch and hearing to tell where we were going. We had to feel and hear the rocky trail beneath our feet to tell if we were going the right

way. If we heard or felt grass, we were off the trail. It was hard, but the lesson of the Senior Night Experience was "Face your fears. They may not be as frightening as you think."

Although my second year was covered in rain, everything was so much fun. After playing football or soccer on the rainy Hell Fields, there was a huge mudslide that was there for about a week. That was one of the things that worked out for the best. Even water polo was fun in the rain.

The rain brought waves and wind. Sailing with high waves and winds is so much fun. The winds allowed me to go really fast and some of the waves rose to about three feet. The best part of sailing was flipping over the boat.

Going back to Dudley allowed me to experience some of the things I never would have dreamed of, like water polo and a huge mudslide. I love the people there.

-An-Khe Tomer, team 4

## Third Year at Dudley

There are many words that I can use to describe Camp Dudley or my experience at Dudley, but I can't choose one word because my three summers there were all great. I had so much fun, but my time there is up. I just hope that the kids that are going have as much fun as I did.

Dudley is about a five to six hour drive from New York City to Westport. When you get to the camp, you meet the director, Andy Biselle. It's a surprise to meet him because once you meet him he already knows your name.

Camp starts on a Tuesday, then you meet the people in your cabin. My three cabins were Cornell in my junior year, Union in my first senior year, and Columbia in my last year. The first several days, we compete intra-cabin to set the stage for the team games in the coming weeks. We always play lacrosse, soccer, basketball, and football. It's always fun for me just to be competitive and have fun at the same time.

Other than playing sports on teams, there are other activities to be done. There's riflery, archery, arts and crafts, benchball, dodgeball, swimming at swim point in Lake Champlain, frisbee golf, and there's service to be done anywhere on main campus. Of course, there is also fun to be had just hanging out on main campus. The food is awesome because it's not like any other camp food in that it is not nasty and gross.

Last year, The Senior Night Experience, or SNE, was intimidating because I was scared of walking through the woods in the dark. Last year I got over this fear. The second time I did it, it was a breeze.

There are also shows every Wednesday and Saturday at the theater or Witherbee Hall. The Wednesday Night shows



are set to be funny; sometimes they aren't and sometimes they are. The Saturday night shows are more serious and you dress in a polo shirt and either pants or shorts. The last second session show is the Big Show but I don't know why it's called the Big Show. My second year, I was in it and I regretted it. All my free time was spent in rehearsal, rehearsal, rehearsal. Every Sunday is a little different because Chapel is on Sunday. Sundays are my favorite days because more sleep time, an awesome lunch, extended rest period, two hour free time, and finally hymn sing. Like I said before, I had a great time at camp, and it's too bad I can't go back.

Some people say that the reason they don't want to go to Camp Dudley is because it's an all-boys camp. Well those people are missing out on the fun. For the people that are going this summer, make your summer count. Meet new friends, play sports, hang out, and take a dip in the lake. There's so much to do there. Don't waste a second of it! The last thing about Dudley that I have to say is be yourself. You can go to camp without the fear of being judged, so be yourself and make your time last.

**-Raymond Moore, team 3**



Team 5 Member Tariq Holland (right) with a buddy from Dudley.

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**We at StreetSquash thank  
Camp Dudley director Andy  
Bisselle, his staff, and the  
camp counselors for all they  
have done for kids in our pro-  
gram over the years. We hope  
that the relationship will only  
strengthen as we go forward!**  
.....



# Science at Sea in Massachusetts



By Rakey Drammeh • • • • •

**T**his summer, I had the experience of a lifetime. I got to spend eight days out at sea with a program called Science At Sea (SAS), in Woods Hole, MA. Before I got on the boat I had to take three classes to prepare for the trip. They were Oceanography, Nautical Science and Maritime Studies. This took ten days of hard work with homework, presentations, essays and research. In class we also talked about safety at sea, such as what procedures we must take if the boat were to catch on fire, if there were a man overboard and if we had to abandon ship. We also went on mini field trips to labs and got the chance to tour a research vessel called the "Knorr." We went to the beach for navigational exercises with the compass. I felt as if I was in school.



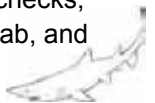
We also had "Exploratory" every night, which changed everyday. One day we did team building by playing games to get to know everyone. Other nights we had fish printing (which really smelled), a density challenge, a trivia extravaganza, and my favorite: stargazing.

Back at the campus we lived in cottages, which were really comfortable. However, they were really cold at night. I lived there with eight other people including my house leader. In the house we had responsibilities such as cleaning the bathroom and the kitchen, preparing meals, and doing dishes. Doing these chores was not a problem because I was doing them with other people. I was really outgoing and got along well with everybody. At this point this is where my transformation began. I became more responsible and more organized with my work.



After ten days on land all our hard work was going to be put to use. The ship was called The SSV Corwith Cramer. She was steel, 134 feet long, weighed about 280 tons and was built in 1987 in Bilbao, Spain.

When we got on board we got unpacked into our bunks, and got to know the crew. On board lived 38 crew members: twenty-four students and thirteen crew and faculty. We sailed a couple miles off Cape Cod then anchored at Martha's Vineyard. I felt fine and confident that I was not going to be seasick. We learned which watches we were in. Twenty-four of us were divided equally into three watches with three staff members. Each watch had a certain chore or time they had to take control of the boat. For example, watch schedules were from 7am to 1pm; 1pm to 7pm; 7pm to 11pm; 11pm to 3am, then 3am to 7am. Then the schedule would start over again. The boat was always watched 24 hours a day. We had responsibilities such as doing boat checks, being at bow watch, completing all there was for lab, and taking control at the helm.



The official first day we sailed out of Cape Cod and away from the sight of land. It was really beautiful, the ocean and the waves. However after lunch I felt so sick that I had to sit out from the activities for the rest of the day. My watch had to do their work without me. I thought my seasickness would only last for that day. But each day I started to get worse. I would still try my best to participate, but after I would feel really weak. About the third to last day I started feeling better, which was great because I got to climb aloft and help set all the sails. Also I got the chance to see dolphins, a humpback whale and a Mola Mola fish.

On this trip I realized how I can still work and keep trying even if my body gives up on me. This is an experience that I will remember forever, and I am so thankful for Summer Search giving me the scholarship and the opportunity to have this experience.

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## My camp is in Vermont!

By Azania Floyd

This year, I had one of the best summers of my life. During the school year I was introduced to one of the best summer camps I have ever been to. My camp is the girls equivalent of Camp Dudley, the camp for boys. My camp is called Camp Dudley at Kiniya. I had a chance to open up and learn about the people around me. We learned different life skills and how to live with people different from us. We even lived in cabins. We went on hikes, swam in a real lake, canoed, kayaked, and even water skied and wakeboarded. On our hike, we even walked through poison ivy to get to the top of our mountain.

We got a chance to bond while sitting around camp fires talking, laughing and telling jokes. No matter what, there was always something fun to do whether it was something on the waterfront or playing different sports like golf, tennis, lacrosse, or even vespers at night. I can't wait to go back next year.



Team 5 Member Azania (orange suit) with friends from Kiniya.



photos from Wilbur Herrlich.

## Frogs, Fish, and Frolicking at Wilbur Herrlich

By Maiyah Rushing, Team 5

I had such a great time at Camp Wilbur Herrlich. I started out at the camp thinking it was going to be boring, but I left camp with new friends and am already missing it. I don't think I have ever missed anyone as much as I miss the people I met at camp. Only one of my friends went with me and I think it worked that way because we were barely together, which is good. I mean it is fun to be with your friends but as soon as you get there you will want to have your own memories as well as shared memories.

The things we did there were amazingly fun. I went frog catching in the mud, I saved a fish from dying and I swam in a lake. I know everyone says things like this but camp was so magical it was almost as if anything and everything were possible. I took pictures of my friends and of the camp site and I think it is so beautiful out there. I think the first week went by slowly but as we got to get to know everybody, everything went by fast.

If I could recommend the camp to friends I would but I think it is better to go alone and just meet new people. It was like a real summer vacation at camp. We all sang songs and had relay races. Everybody was so cool, from the counselors to the nurse. There were issues at points and big storms but it was all worth it.

Everybody thinks that church can be boring, and it usually is, but the church out there at camp is so different but still had the same good effects.

Even the food was good!

My favorite memory is when we had DJ Night. It's the big going home party we have near the end of the session. It was the best and all the things we did there were just so fun. We even had a carnival with watergames and everything. Everything was just so relaxed and cool and well-planned. If I have a chance to go back to that camp I would go in a second. I am so grateful that I decided to go and I can't wait until next year when I go again.





## Universal Squash camp, UK

By Joshua Gary

The Universal Squash camp in England was the best experience of my life. We practiced for about 9 hours a day. I only stayed for 10 days, but they were the best 10 days of my life. Besides playing squash we took a day off and took a tour of London. We saw the London Eye, Big Ben, the Golden Gates, and the Buckingham Palace.

The family that I stayed with, which were the Stubbington's, made me feel very welcomed and treated me as if I was one of their own. The food was wonderful, and after nine hours of squash, I was always in a rush to see what Mrs. Stubbington cooked for dinner. And her son Louis always made me laugh. We played video games a lot and joked around. I remember when I was coming back to America Louis asked me where I was going and I told him that I had to go home. When I told him that, his exact words were, "Josh you can't leave, just stay here. Tell your mother that you missed your plane." After that I really started to feel sad, but I knew that I had a new friend and family in England.

I really miss every friend I met in England and I wish I could see them again. I just hope I'm able to see them next summer. I will never forget the wonderful time I had and the people I've met. And like I said before, even though I only stayed for 10 days, they were the best 10 days of my life.



Josh and Ayanna with London in the background.

## Jumping in the Deep End at Windsor

By Isamar Rodriguez

**Hi!** My name is Isamar Rodriguez. I applied for a camp named Windsor Mountain International Camp. I am writing this essay because I am going to explain my experience at camp. It was magnificent. I had so much fun. At first, I had the worst time ever because I missed home and had never been away from home so long without family. I also had the worst time because the very second day of camp it was my birthday and it was the third birthday spending it away from my mother. I only had a difficult time for like five days into the camp, but after that I had the best time of my life.

The camp had a lot of interesting activities. They had separate departments for music, art, the waterfront, sports, performing arts, and ropes. All of these departments were activities that the campers could do and some, believe it or not, campers could teach. For example, there was a class called "Mexican Tennis" taught by a camper called Erika while the counselor in charge of the class was pretending to be a camper. The class was called Mexican Tennis because the camper teaching it played tennis back home in Mexico. I was in the class, and it was so fun. I couldn't participate so much because that was the day after I came from the hospital. I was down at the Waterfront for a class and the lake was so deep that I had to wear a life jacket because I was in Arc 2 and I had to be in Arc 3+ not to wear a life jacket. So I was on the dock, and I jumped off with a life jacket and tried to do a dive. When I hit the water I heard my back crack. When I tried getting out of the water, I couldn't do it - my back was hurting too much. The lifeguards got me out on a board, and a truck came to take me away to the HMO, and then from there they took me to the hospital.

My favorite camp experience was Dunny Day. What we basically did on that day was went down to the Waterfront with the whole camp. We did a whole bunch of activities down there like windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle

boating, and rope swing. I tried so many new things that I wouldn't try anywhere else ever in my life so I am so glad StreetSquash could make this possible for me. I also got a small award for improving my swimming. I hope I can return. I have to say I'm missing it already.





## Squash, Service, and Surf

This summer was one of my best. I attended squash camp in Maine and did community service in Mexico. I learned a lot, made many new friends, had great experiences, and had so much fun. I appreciate everyone who helped me get out of the country because it's something I was really determined to do.

I attended squash camp at Bowdoin College. We learned so much from Tomas in just five days of playing. My backhand improved and I felt like I was ready for any shot that came my way. Bowdoin squash camp was in my eyes the best squash camp because the food was great, the coaches were really nice, and we did other things besides squash. They took us to the movies, to the beach, and to an amusement park. Another great part about this camp was that we were able to go on a tour of the college and I was really interested in the school. I will definitely put this as one of my top colleges to go to. Hopefully, I can go back next year.

**J**une 25th was the last day of school for the juniors. When I went home from school, I had already packed up my stuff to go to Orlando to see my dad, Ron; my sister, Brandi; my two nephews, Brandon and Jordan; and my brother in law, Tu-Tu. The airplane that I got on was an AirTram going from New York to Atlanta to Orlando. The house was in Altamont Springs. We went to Wet N Wild where I went on all of the water rides, but most of the time I spent at the wave pool. I went to the movies and also went bowling and tallied four strikes. I played pool with my sister and her boyfriend.

On July 3rd, me and the family saw the fireworks. We had a clear view and took pictures having fun together as a family. Me and dad spent time with each other just me and him. We finally got our chance to hang out again. We went out to



Paige (right) with her teammate Rakey.

I went to Mexico with the organization Windsor Mountain. It was a life changing experience for me. I met so many great people and made a lot of friends. During my month there I helped the less fortunate. For ten days, we stayed in the indigenous towns of people where we went without showers for nine days. We communicated with the local children by playing soccer everyday, drawing with them, and playing games.

## ...in Maine and Mexico!

We also helped the town by building a foundation for homes, a potato field, and teaching English in the nearby school. During home stays we got to live with a family and experience their everyday lives. At the end we had a rain party with the kids and danced.

Mexico really opened my eyes to new cultures. During my month there I made long lasting friendships with everyone. I think the best part of the trip was going to a new place and not knowing anyone, because it almost forced me to try new things and be more independent. I will never forget my experience there.

*By Paige Babilonia*



the beach with his friend Mike and the three of us got haircuts together. Orlando is like my second home. I got some sneakers - the Air Red, Blue and White Nikes, but I never wore them because I did not want to get them messed up. In Orlando, my family and I went to the hotel to see my mother. Her room was right next to the swimming pool where I did backflips underwater and swam back and forth having fun with my family. On August 14th, I had to go back to NY. When I got to the airport, I didn't want to leave, I still wanted to stay in the beautiful weather. I was sad because I wanted to spend more time with my father, but I have one more year of school and I can't mess up this year so I have to try my hardest to pass all my classes and go to college. This was my vacation and I had so much fun hanging out with my family.

*Cody Levy, team 1*



<--Julian (front right) with fellow Longacre campers.

## Longacre Leadership Camp

**T**his year was my first year at Longacre Leadership Camp. At first, I was nervous because I didn't know anyone and I was going to be in an environment that wasn't anything like Camp Dudley. The first day, I felt alone and isolated from the group. After a few days, I felt comfortable and close to people there and found that I had a few things in common with them as well. Four days of every week we would have group talks for about two hours. We talked about different topics as well as expressing our feelings about the camp. I thought it was a good idea to have us say what is on our mind but I felt it was too long. At Longacre Leadership, I was able to experience so much. I participated in whitewater rafting, numerous bike trips, Hershey Park, and the movies every Saturday night. Overall, my experience at Longacre Leadership was a great one and I'll never forget the people I met.

- JULIAN HACKNEY, TEAM 3

**D**uring the summer of 2008, I went to my first sleepaway camp called Longacre Leadership. It was located on a farm. The camp was four weeks long. When I was told it was a farm camp I wasn't very enthusiastic, but then I looked at the information packet and thought, "Why not, I might even get to ride a horse."

When I first arrived at camp I got situated in a tent with four other girls- tent 3. All of the campers and staff slept very close by and almost every tent had a mentor kid that had been there for at least one year and been entrusted with special privileges.

The day started with the wake up bell, which rang at 7 except for Sundays which, of course, was for sleeping in. After breakfast, at morning deck we sat on the dining hall deck and the staff would have choices they gave us for work because in the morning we would either work or do volunteer work and in the afternoon we would get to do more fun stuff. We would then have a couple hours of the activity we chose.

Some of the afternoon options would be going to the pool, riding and/or grooming horses, and arts and crafts. After dinner, campers were allowed free time to gossip or observe things. At 8 we would have something called "Group" which was held in a building called the Octagon. During Group the campers and the staff would talk about how they feel and whether or not there were problems. If there were problems the staff would try to resolve the problems by telling the campers to express themselves. They would then divide the campers into groups of five, six, seven or eight. In the groups the campers would do trust exercises and give each other feedback. The staff also had to do these things with us.

At the end of the day, people were not allowed to take showers, only to brush their teeth in the bathhouse. At night there was absolutely no light at all anywhere except for the kitchen, the showerhouse, and the Octagon deck. Because it was so dark at night, a powerful flashlight was needed in order to move around the camp and see. On Saturdays instead of Group at night we were allowed to choose what movie we would want to see at the movie theater or decide to stay at the farm. Sometimes there were even other options such as bowling and going to a cafe.



On the third week of camp there was an all-day trip to Hershey Park. Unfortunately we would not be able to bring any chocolate or food back to the farm for fear of animals in our tent. The staff then had us mail our suitcases home because they weren't allowed in the car. At the end of the day we ate smores and celebrated with a bonfire. Before I left, I said goodbye to everyone and gave my condolences to the the staff and campers. Hopefully, more people from StreetSquash will experience what I did this past summer at Longacre.

--Jazmin Matos, team 3



Jazmin (back right) with her tentmates.



## New York Squashes Boston

This past summer, Patricia Hall, Shaheem Perry, Hakeem Elliot, and Toshar Melville attended summer camp at SquashBusters in Boston. The camp was the first of its kind - a camp exclusively for kids from the urban squash programs. Kids from CitySquash, SquashBusters, StreetSquash, Squash Haven, and SquashSmarts were in attendance. StreetSquash is scheduled to host a NUSEA camp this July. We can only hope that it goes as well as the camp at SquashBusters went!

Patricia cited the group competition on the last day as her favorite part. She said, "We did water balloon relays, squash, and some other stuff too. It was fun to compete against the other groups."

When asked about off-court activities, Toshar mentioned the Universoul Circus, mini golf, and the movies, as well as some college tours and the zoo. Sounds like the perfect balance of squash and cultural outings!



Above, left to right: Shaheem Perry, Hakeem Elliot, Patricia Hall, and Toshar Melville.

## A "once-in-a-lifetime" Challenge

I attended Outward Bound Wilderness Camp. I knew it was going to be a challenge for me and that it wouldn't be a camp for relaxing. I knew it would be hard for me to be away from my family for two weeks. It was even more challenging than I expected.

When I arrived at the Outward Bound base our first task was a hike down to our first campsite, which was outdoors, as they all would be. I didn't mind this because it was something I didn't normally do. The next day we got our first experience with canoes. We had to assure our counselors as well as ourselves that we could fall out of a canoe without panicking. In order to do this we had to pair up with a partner and flip the canoe into the water then flip it back over. We canoed many miles that week.

The hardest canoeing day was the portage day. We had to carry our canoes on our shoulders for four miles. To make things worse one of our men hurt his shoulder giving the lower hand. The portage was something that I really struggled with but I made it in the end.

When the first week was up we moved on to the hiking portion. By this time myself and all the other boys were good friends, which was good because we were able to motivate each other not to give up. The hiking part was the hardest for me considering that I wasn't in the best physical condition that I could have been and we were carrying heavy bags on our backs. Although the hiking was hard, it got easier for me every day because I got used to walking so much. Although the work was getting easier, the hard part was dealing with the separation from my family. I got really homesick toward the middle of the course but the thought of me disappointing too many people kept me going.

Finally, the day came for me to take my first shower in weeks and it was time for me to go home. Although, I am happy to be home, I can look back on all my experiences at Outward Bound and all the good that it did for me. Outward Bound has taught me a really big life lesson which was "you shouldn't take things for granted". I made a whole lot of friends and I experienced things that can be remembered for years to come. Outward Bound was hard but it is something that everyone should do at least once in their life time.

--Sion Sennon, team 4





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# MISSION

Founded in September 1999, StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring with squash instruction, community service, and one-on-one mentoring.

StreetSquash's mission is to provide consistent, long-term and reliable support to the children, families and schools in Harlem. By exposing these children to a broad range of experiences and by maintaining the highest standards, StreetSquash aims to help each child realize his or her academic and personal potential.