

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Squash Haven
<i>Full street address</i>	78 Ashmun St, New Haven CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	www.squashhaven.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Rachel McLaughlin
<i>Title</i>	Social Worker, Program Coordinator
<i>Cell phone number</i>	7033987021
<i>E-mail address</i>	rachel@squashhaven.org

What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?

- Send an e-mail with questions

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)

8 weeks between Monday June 17th- Friday, August 9th

Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?

Yes but the weeks in July and August are part of our mandatory programming.
June can be flexible.

Proposed work schedule (*work week should equal (and not exceed) 37.5 hours per week*)

June 17th-June 30th – 10:30-6p

July 1st-August 9th – 9:00a-4:30p

If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:

N/A

Organization description

Squash Haven provides individually directed academic enrichment, squash instruction, and college preparation and placement to New Haven public school students in fifth grade through college. Through intensive tuition-free academic and squash sessions at Yale, Squash Haven supports New Haven youth to achieve school success, physical wellness and to forge a path through higher education to engaged citizenship. The Squash Haven team is currently composed of 120 students attending New Haven public schools in fifth through twelfth grades and 45 students in college. In our first fourteen years, we have helped team members earn 42 national-level squash championships, 18 private-school scholarships, and over \$1.4 million annually in renewable financial aid grants and scholarships.

Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.

Our Yale Summer Teaching Fellow will gain an immersion in teaching and administration for a small education focused non-profit. The Fellow will teach three to four literacy blocks or academic elective sessions per day and will lead one to two major administrative projects. Our Fellow will also play an active role in our small staff and comprehensive programming.

Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

Squash Haven's primary objective is to prepare New Haven Public School students to attend and succeed in higher education.

Squash Haven provides intensive summer academic programming to help combat the achievement gap between high and low-income students that can be attributed to summer learning loss. Students will receive differentiated, literacy based academic programming in the summer of 2023.

The initial weeks of the Fellowship will encompass program immersion and research. During this time, the Fellow's primary responsibilities will be to 1) get to know and understand the academic program through daily work with students ages 10-18 in the classroom, 2) collaborate with academic staff to learn about curricular development, begin to construct a behavior management plan for the summer, and develop initial lesson plans; and 3) work through a major administrative project ideas that can be completed during the Fellowship that will have lasting impact for Squash Haven. Past projects have included an overhaul of our safety manual, a new staff handbook, and a new video for a grant application.

With the Summer Teaching Fellow's help, we will support summer groups ranging from fifth through twelfth grades. The Fellow will be responsible for developing and implementing several hours per day of classroom work. This time will be spent working with small groups of approximately 15 students from a variety of grade levels. The curriculum will be developed by the Fellow as desired. Examples might include: Global Warming, Introduction to Journalism, or The History of New Haven. The Fellow's curriculum will include either a weekly culminating project or one culminating project at the end of the five week summer session. Culminating projects for the above classes might include a poster presentation on aspects of global warming, a newspaper, or a self-produced video. We are excited for the Fellow's energy and particular vision to help make this a summer our students will never forget!

The Fellow will also lead several administrative projects. These could include policy documents and reviews, program enhancements, and other ideas of the Fellow's choosing that align with program needs. Program needs include website enhancements and social media initiatives. These will be developed in the initial weeks of the Fellowship and carried out over time.

The Squash Haven academic program is designed to: support student academic performance at school; enhance student classroom learning; connect interested students to additional academic opportunities and resources outside of Squash Haven; and inspire team members to fully engage themselves in school and to become lifelong learners. This project supports each one of our academic goals and will help us ensure that our students are moving forward academically throughout the summer and beyond.

List any specific skills/experience required for the project

Outstanding speaking, writing, and interpersonal skills
Adaptability, creativity, and ability to take initiative

A passion for working with children
A belief in our mission and interest in education

Additional requirements (e.g. a car, weekend working hours, a background check). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement. If a background check is required, share how far in advance this must start before arriving to work at your site. Please note that your organization is responsible for any costs associated with the background check process.

Fellows must complete a background check as well as basic youth Safety training assigned by Squash Haven. There are no costs to the fellow for these trainings.

Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.

We have happily hosted six PPSF Fellows, in 2017 we hosted Matthew Coffin '19. Matthew taught one literacy block and two electives; his other major project was the development and filming of a new video for a grant application in addition to helping with data management and our year-end surveys. He was a passionate, enthusiastic, and invaluable member of our summer staff, and we were so happy that the experience further strengthened his interest in a career in urban education. Over the years Matthew has remained one of Squash Haven's most enthusiastic and committed volunteers. During the summer of Covid Matthew even reached out and volunteered to teach two literacy sessions for Squash Haven!

During this past summer, Squash Haven hosted fellow David Min. David was instrumental in our programming throughout the summer leading several data projects, gathering vital information for our work. David also helped teach a financial literacy block where he bravely took on teaching our high schoolers about the stock market and the basics of investing. Additionally, David joined us on all of our Fun Friday field trips! Squash Haven students really enjoyed working with David and always look forward to meeting students who come from Yale.