

**Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship
Squash Haven Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017**

- Organization: Squash Haven
- Full street address of organization: 70 Tower Parkway, New Haven, CT, 06511
- Website: www.squashhaven.org
- Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*): Christi Boscarino, Academic Director
- Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor: 203-974-3718, christi@squashhaven.org
- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*): Tuesday, May 30th – Friday, June 23rd and Wednesday, July 5th – Friday, August 4th
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Within reason between May 30th and June 23rd but from July 5th on, dates are not flexible
- Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*): Weeks from May 30th – June 23rd, 10:30 am – 6 pm, Weeks of July 5th – August 4th, 9 am – 4:30 pm

Placement Description

- Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):

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 a path to college and the work force. The Squash Haven team is currently

comprised of 100 students attending New Haven public schools in fifth through twelfth grades, 23 students either in college or the workforce and 30 students participating in our annual try-out selection process. In our first nine years, we have helped team members earn 42 national-level squash championships, 15 private-school scholarships, and over \$800,000 annually in renewable financial aid grants and scholarships.

- Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (50 words or less. *This will be used as your agency's project description summary on the PPSF website, so please be succinct*):

Our Yale Summer Teaching Fellow will gain an immersion in programming and administrative responsibilities for a small education focused non profit. The Fellow will teach three to four literacy blocks or academic electives sessions per day, will lead 2-3 major administrative projects, and will also participate, as part of a small non profit staff team, in Fun Fridays, our year end party, and in individual student and family meetings.

- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (*Suggested length: one to two pages.*)

Squash Haven's primary objective is to prepare New Haven Public School students to attend and succeed at 4 year college and university programs.

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 receive 2 and a half hours daily of differentiated, literacy based academic programming for 5 weeks.

The first three weeks of the Fellowship will be 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 and 2) research lesson planning for their chosen subject and collaborate with academic staff to create lesson plans, improve curricular development skills, and implement behavior management strategies; and 3) develop 2-3 major administrative project ideas that can be completed during the Fellowship and that will have lasting impact for Squash Haven.

With the Summer Teaching Fellow's help, we will support two and a half hours per student per day in groups ranging from fifth through twelfth grades. The Fellow will be responsible for developing and implementing approximately three to four hours per day of classroom work. The time will be spent working with small groups of 10-12

students from the following grade levels: 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th, 9th and 10th, and 11th and 12th. 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 city-wide scavenger hunt. 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 review, program enhancements, and other ideas of the Fellow's choosing. 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.



Krishna, Melanie and Aboubacar working hard in their enrichment session, an important pillar of Squash Haven's academics

- Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):

Outstanding speaking, writing and interpersonal skills

Adaptability, creativity and ability to take initiative

A passion for working with children, experience in a classroom setting is preferred

- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

As a youth serving organization, Squash Haven's Fellow may be asked to work some weekends. They will be expected to join our team for our season ending squash tournament during the third weekend in June. Additionally, they may be asked to support staff at community service projects and other, more local squash tournaments. All other responsibilities will be performed throughout the week. A car is not required, though could be helpful.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, please describe any work that Yale students have done with your agency.

The success of Squash Haven heavily depends and is a testament to the strength of the Yale community. We are currently supported throughout our school year programming by 20 academic volunteers and the entire Men's and Women's squash teams.

During our 2014 summer, Fortney (Fish) Stark '17 joined our staff as a Yale PPSF Fellow and his experience and time with the students has had a lasting impact. He began his time spearheading 2 major administrative projects. He overhauled Squash Haven's safety manual and took sole responsibility for the development and administration of Squash Haven's student and parent survey that, for the first time, was featured online. Both tasks demanded a great deal of time and initiative and have been irreplaceable tools for staff to this date. Fish also utilized this time to help out in daily academic sessions, building his relationships with students and gearing up to lead his summer classroom sessions.

Moving into the summer, Fish took charge of creating and delivering his own curriculum for our youngest students (rising 6th and 7th grade). The daily literacy block had students reading *Harriet the Spy* and then recording their learning and observations in daily spy logs. Fish also taught two daily electives on *Peacemaking and Social Change* to our rising 8th and 9th grade along with our 10th and 11th grade students. Students learned about historical movements of peacemaking and social justice, read the texts of preeminent leaders, and wrote their own speeches about issues of importance in their community before presenting them to notable city leaders.

Fish so enjoyed his experience that he came back to teach an elective as a volunteer in the summer of 2015. For those who know him, he would be a wonderful resource to discuss the prospect of a summer with Squash Haven. Our program relies heavily on the Yale community for our daily programming and we are eager to find a talented Yale student to lead our kids in the summer of 2017. We consider the Fellow a member of our staff and aim to provide a meaningful opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to the lives of New Haven young people in lasting ways.



Fortney Fish Stark '17 and his crew