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# Urban Blazers: Fostering Children's Innate Curiosity and Sense of Adventure

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# Urban Blazers: Fostering Children's Innate Curiosity and Sense of Adventure



Christine Quake, Drexel University of Medicine  
Amber Ransom and Kristen Sanders, , Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions  
Rebecca Welcher and Margaret Vido, , Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

## WHAT IS URBAN BLAZERS?

“Urban Blazers is a nonprofit that builds character in students from under resourced Philadelphia neighborhoods through experience and adventure.”  
(urbanblazers.org)



## COLLABORATIONS

- Mander Recreation Center
- The Salvation Army
- Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse
- Tree House Books
- Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

## GOALS

- Challenging children to step out of their comfort zone to explore nature
- Teaching team building, leadership, and independence
- Encouraging physical activity and getting outside to play
- Teaching children the importance of nature and all it has to offer
- Promoting utilization of parks and trails within the local communities

## HOW WE ENGAGE

### Team Building



### Hiking

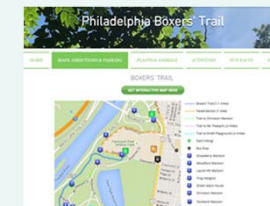


### Teaching about Plants & Animals



## SUMMER PROJECT

- The goal was to promote the use of the Boxers' Trail, an underutilized trail in East Fairmount Park in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.
- First, a survey was created to determine what the barriers were to utilizing the Boxers' Trail
- Based on results, a website was generated with an interactive map. In addition, the website contained information on safety concerns, hiking difficulty, activities on the trail, and general questions
- A pamphlet was also created to guide hikers while on trail



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