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Teens Win As Public and Private Sector Combine to Support 2012 CORE Teen Adventure Challenge

Faced with a series of adventure challenges and team building activities, area teens exercise physically and mentally in a race to the finish.

April 9, 2012, Los Angeles, CA - CORE Educational Services (CORE), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in partnership with arc, a local after school and experiential education provider, presented the 3rd Annual CORE Teen Adventure Challenge (CTAC) on Saturday, April 7, at the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas, CA. Rachele Brooke Smith of *Bring it On: Fight to the Finish* and *Center Stage 2: Turn it Up* was in attendance to motivate the teens and encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

CTAC, CORE's signature event, promotes active and healthy lifestyles, exposes urban youth to city, state, and national parks near their communities, uses friendly competition to unite communities, and redefines traditional power dynamics between teens and adults through play. During the race, teams of four teens along with their adult team captain navigated a wilderness course strategically designed and run by experiential education experts at arc, with activities ranging from teambuilding brain puzzles to rock climbing, mountain biking and kayaking.

Julie Munjack, Executive Director of CORE Educational Services said of this year's event, "The Teen Adventure Challenge is a perfect example of the public and private sector coming together to support the local community. Without sponsors like Subway, Vitamin Water, and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, as well as nonprofit partners like the Boys and Girls Club, not to mention the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, the event would have been impossible." Over 500 students competed in the race, many bringing along their families for support. An additional 80 volunteers from the community were also in attendance, helping to run the event.

This year's Middle and High School winners were awarded with cash prizes and also received money to donate to a charity of their choice. CORE also rewarded teams for teamwork, fitness, and racing ability. Here are the results:

High School Bracket

1st Place: \$400 to Reseda High School, Snake Runners

2nd Place: \$200 Royball High School

Middle School Bracket

1st Place: \$200 Aspire with David Damiani

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Knocked it Out of the Park! Award

LA High with Ruben Martinez

LA Galaxy All Star Teamwork Award

Grant Happy Cobras

BGC Burbank with Julio Herrera

ASPIRE with Lizette Dolmos

Animo Venice with Servando Lopez

Cesar Chavez Middle School with Garrett Hunter

RoadID Exceptional Racers Award
Zombies Team
Jaxx Theatricals and South Gate Team
Reseda Heavy Hitters

San Diego Padres Major League Fitness Award
Garfield High with Cindy Rojas

Although the event focused mainly on the race, other attractions included Student Performance Showcases, Food Pavilion, and even more entertainment from Warehouse Shoe Store DJ.

In a time when supplemental youth education programs face threats from budget cuts, CORE works with not only traditional foundations, but the private sector as well to fund programs and events like CTAC that address the growing opportunity gap. Event sponsors for CTAC 2012 included those mentioned above, as well as Celebrity High, VaVi, CAPS, LA Marathon, GOJO, Emergen-C, WAT-AHH!, LA Galaxy, the San Diego Padres, State Farm, !Mpack, Goodmakers Films, Think Together, Raw Revolution, Renegade Racing, and Stoneworks.

CORE is looking forward to next year's race in April 2013! For more information, including event photos and video footage, please visit www.teenadventurechallenge.com.

About CORE Educational Services.

CORE Educational Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the southern California area. CORE works to increase and broaden educational opportunities for older youth in out-of-school time through strategic partnerships with non-profit and for profit organizations as well as schools and government agencies. Through the implementation and development of these research-based programs, CORE provides hands-on opportunities for students to explore their strengths and follow their inspiration through innovative on-campus programs. For more information, visit www.coreeducationalservices.org.

About arc

arc is an afterschool and experiential education provider that bridges the opportunity gap by creating transformational learning opportunities including arts education, enrichment clubs, and academic assistance programs, as well as leadership development, service learning and adventure sports.