



# The Torch

SYC Weekly Digest

[Calendar](#) | [Register](#) | [Website](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Donate](#) | [SYC Store](#)



As the holidays and the end of the year approach, I wanted to share a few thoughts on what has been a year that has challenged everyone - personally, as families, as a community, as a youth club - in ways no one could have reasonably foreseen. The COVID-19 pandemic has had impacts on virtually every aspect of our lives. As a club, we have tried to come up with innovative ways to continue to support the youth of our community, taking into account the restrictions under which we are required to operate, while keeping the safety of our young athletes and their families, our volunteers, and our staff the highest priority.

So many parents have shared with me the tension they feel between wanting to keep their children active and positively engaged and wanting to be safe and observe the proper protocols for the health and safety of their families and the community. I can honestly say that I appreciate being the parent of adult children - I have nothing but respect for all of you who have taken on the challenge of remote learning with your school aged kids. I am gratified that, despite the pandemic, SYC has been able to provide programs to help allow your children to get out of the house and experience some kind of normalcy through our sports programs.

The strain this health crisis has put on families and communities is also reflected in the club. Fewer programs, refunds for programs that started and could not be completed and lower enrollment means lower revenue and while running fewer programs also means lower costs, there are some costs associated with our staff and our facility that are not reduced through lower activities and enrollment. We have been fortunate to be able to navigate this period so far through sound fiscal policy, taking advantage of available

government relief programs, and the generosity of our membership, both financially and as volunteers. Our staff has made operational changes to stay safe and cut costs.

Challenges remain, and the club's board of directors continues to work to find ways to offer programs that provide a positive, healthy outlet for the youth of our community and navigate the club to a return to more normal operations, which can't come too soon. Let's hope that we have turned an important corner in this health crisis and while challenges remain to get through the next few months, a return to normalcy is on the horizon.

Before closing, I'd like to express my personal thanks to Debbie Forcht, who retired at the beginning of this month. She served many roles at SYC, but in my opinion, her most important role was when she volunteered to serve on the board's executive leadership committee as our treasurer over a decade ago. She brought a pragmatic, practical approach to the club's finances, helping the board get a solid understanding of what the club could - and couldn't - afford and implemented important initiatives that changed the way we did business. SYC has been fortunate to have many great volunteers over the years, but I can truthfully say that I am not sure we are here as a club without Debbie's important work. Debbie is an amazing example of volunteerism at its best. We will miss her.

We honor and respect the trust you have placed in SYC as your youth sports home. Have a happy and healthy holiday and accept our best wishes for the coming year.

*Chris Spera*  
**SYC President**

## OPEN REGISTRATIONS

### ANNUAL SPORTS

[Travel Soccer Tryouts](#)

### WINTER SPORTS

[Backyard Flag Football Pickup](#) - **STARTS 1/9!**

[Powerlifting](#)

[Track Clinics](#)

### SPRING SPORTS

[Field Hockey](#)

[Flag Football](#)

[Boys Lacrosse](#)

[Girls Lacrosse](#)

[Rec Soccer](#)

[U5 Cubs Soccer](#)

[Pee Wee Kickers Soccer](#)

[Softball](#)

## FEATURED SPORT

# WINTER 2021 BACKYARD FLAG FOOTBALL PICKUP

COED AGES 7-15



HURRY! STARTS 1/9



There's still time to sign up for our 6-week winter pick-up program starting January 9th. Games will be held on Saturdays, with Sunday make-up dates as needed. **The registration fee will only be \$50!**

**WE MUST HAVE VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THE PROGRAM!** Please register to volunteer when registering your child.

[Register Here](#)

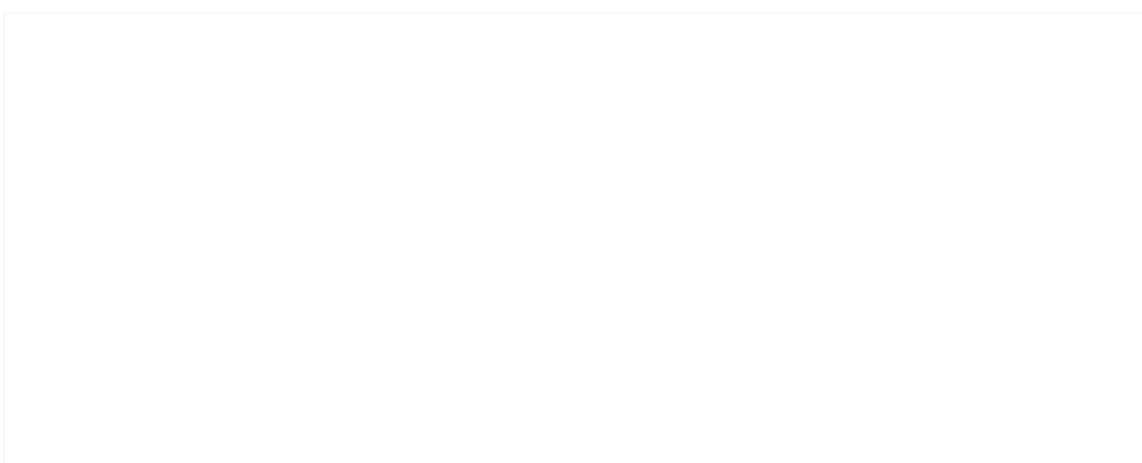
## NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A light blue banner with several white snowflake illustrations. In the center is the SYC logo. The text is centered and reads: "LAST CHANCE! 'Keep Kids Playing Sports' Link Closes 12/31!". On the right side, there is a blue button with the word "DONATE" in white, and a hand icon pointing towards it.

LAST CHANCE!  
"Keep Kids Playing Sports"  
Link Closes 12/31!

[DONATE](#)

## IN THE COMMUNITY





### **New Ideas for Brain Breaks for Kids**

Brain breaks are short, physical activities that, when interspersed with periods of more focused academic work, can help improve students' attention, efficiency, enjoyment, creativity, and retention of information. These breaks can be as simple...

[Read more](#)

[\*\*www.verywellfamily.com\*\*](http://www.verywellfamily.com)

Springfield/South County Youth Club | 7075 Newington Road Unit G, Lorton, VA 22079

703-339-3796 | [www.sycva.com](http://www.sycva.com)

