



Mission Statement

NYPUM (National Youth Project Using Minibikes) offers youth of America an opportunity to develop self-esteem, values for daily living, and a sense of belonging using the Honda dirt bike as a motivational tool.

History

NYPUM was started in 1969 working with the National YMCA with an initial gift of 10,000 Honda dirt bikes. At its peak, there were over 370 programs in operation throughout the United States dedicated to benefiting thousands of youth from Boston to Los Angeles, from ghettos to Native American reservations. The U.S. Department of Justice provided grants to the national office of the YMCA from 1971 to 1992 to sustain this initiative.

Currently and since 1993, NYPUM exists as its own non-profit wholly supported by American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and run by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps of Boston, MA.

Goals

NYPUM is a national program for youth using Honda dirt bikes. The goal is to provide a service that can integrate with any type of youth development environment to positively impact youth in the following areas so that they can concentrate on positive personal development:

- Encourage regular school attendance
- Promote environmental awareness
- Foster community involvement
- Develop safe riding skills
- Divert youth from harmful environments
- Develop responsible citizenship

Methodology

First and foremost, NYPUM is a mentoring program designed to help youth by using a Honda dirt bike as a metaphor for change. Using a "personal contract" youth are guided by NYPUM staff, agency staff and their parents to address behaviors that create personal growth challenges at home or school. Everyone works together to create a collaborative agreement that focuses on characteristics of positive behaviors that affect positive personal development at home, school and in the community.

The opportunity to learn and ride a dirt bike is a direct result of practicing NYPUM standards for growth and the personal contracts. Although the initial incentive for the youth to participate in NYPUM is the dirt bike, membership in the group and developing a positive relationship with caring adults soon become the most important to the youth.

How We Look Today

In 2017, NYPUM supports 35 programs representing 19 states across the U.S. The types of youth development groups that have these programs range from residential care and after-school programs, to churches, community centers, and municipalities using NYPUM sometimes as therapeutic recreation. The youth are equally diverse and from all economies. On average, 1600 young men and women between the ages of 10 and 17 participate each year nationally.