



*Salisbury University's*

**PRESIDENTIAL CITIZEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

# **PCS WHITEPAPER**

## **NFL FLAG FOOTBALL IN SALISBURY & WICOMICO**

**JOSHUA ADEY, JUNIOR**

**ASLYNN GORKOS, JUNIOR**

**AIDAN STANISLAVSKY, JUNIOR**

**DANIEL WHIDDON, JUNIOR**

# MEET THE SCHOLARS



## **Joshua Adey**

I major in communications, minor in marketing, and will graduate spring 2025. I am President of Club Baseball and a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.



## **Aslynn Gorkos**

I'm majoring in Early Childhood Education. Im graduating in the fall of 2025. I am a member of Phi Mu and have been on the executive board for two years.



## **Aidan Stanislavsky**

I am a Business Management and Information major graduating in May 2025. I am the vice president of the Student Organization for Activity Planning as well as on the board of the Relay For Life club.



## **Daniel Whiddon**

I am a Business Management Major with a minor in Law, Justice and Advocacy, graduating in the Fall of 2025.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission was to create a sustainable youth flag football program that targets the Westside of Salisbury. We have partnered with the city of Salisbury, NFL flag and Wicomico County to create an affordable and sustainable flag football league for boys and girls ages 7-15. Our league is set to take place at Waterside Park and Billy Gene Jackson Sr. Park, both located on the Westside of Salisbury. We have chosen to target the Westside of Salisbury due to the lack of youth athletic programs in the area, with those available being over \$100 to register. Due to the Westside of Salisbury being a lower-income area compared to others in Salisbury, we decided to implement opportunities for the youth in that area.

## GRANT FUNDING

With the assistance of Tim Bozman, we were able to apply and successfully receive a \$4,999 grant that goes directly to the funding of our league. This grant targets mentorship and positive outcomes for the youth in Salisbury. With this funding, we were able to cover the league scholarships of 46 players, totaling to \$1,500.

The remainder of the funding went into improvements for the league, such as NFL Flag jerseys for each player, as well as pylons for the fields. Along with the grant from Wicomico County, we were also granted with funding from ShoreCorps AmeriCorps. This grant totaled to \$240 and was used for social media ads on Facebook and Instagram to help market the Salisbury NFL Flag Football League.

**REGISTRATION OPEN** NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

**Boys & Girls Ages 7 to 15... Let's play FLAG!**

**WHEN:** Assessments March 14th and 16th  
Games begin April 2024

**WHERE:** Games @ Waterside Park & Practices @ Billy Gene Jackson Sr. Park

**SIGN UP:** \$65 per player  
Scholarships available  
salisbury.md/nfl-flag

## LEAGUE DETAILS

NFL Flag in Salisbury opened registration in February 2024 for \$65 per child, offering a scholarship that would bring the total registration fee to \$25. With the league being open to boys and girls ages 7-15, the league had 146 sign-ups. The 9U and 11U age groups had 6 teams each, while the 13/15U age group had 4 teams in their league. With our partnership with NFL Flag, each team will resemble an NFL team and be wearing NFL jerseys for the games. With assistance from the football program Salisbury Elite, they have agreed to provide the league with volunteer referees for the whole season.

## CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

To conclude the first NFL Flag season, we are continuing our partnership with the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County to plan a championship day event to celebrate the league and celebrate the continuous evolution of youth sports in the city of Salisbury. For the event, we were able to work with the county to use the Wicomico County Stadium to play the championship games. At the event, there will be vendors, activities, raffles and local mascots for the players and their families to enjoy throughout the day. This is a way to celebrate youth sports in the community while bringing everyone together.





## **PURPOSE**

Waterside Park, located in the heart of Westside of Salisbury, has had a lack of activity and involvement, despite the large field space available for use. Our mission was to put use to unused field space in a community with youth who need it. Flag football is a quickly growing sport and a safe alternative to tackle football. In the City of Salisbury, we believe that a league located in the Westside of Salisbury will directly impact the youth and help evolve youth sports in the City and County.

## **IMPACT ON THE CLASSROOM**

The league provides athletes with a role model to motivate them. By concentrating their focus on becoming eligible to play by doing well in class, students learn to focus their mind on the subject matter (Roland, J. 2019). Youth sports can build leadership, teamwork, and listening skills. Its important kids stay active and play the sports they love. Sports participation during childhood is associated with positive outcomes in physical fitness, weight, mental health, academic performance, and social development (Alysia Cohen et al., 2019 pg.17)

## REFERENCES

- Stanislavsky, A. E. (2021). The Future of Little League: Why Funding for Youth Sports Is Important.
- Blake, L.; Cioccio, Z.; Cooper, J.; Evans, L.; Gischel, T.; Green, J.; Habib, M.; Leon, H.; Planner, A.; Towers, J. “Newton Street Community Center: A Needs-Based Assessment Ensuring Beneficial Programs.” Salisbury University, 2020.
- Conversation with Johanna Duncan, Assistant Principal at Bennett Middle
- Conversation with Rachel manning and Robert Reed, City of Salisbury

**THANK YOU!**

Josh, Aslynn, Aidan, and Daniel would like to extend our appreciation to the following people who have given significant time and energy to support our Presidential Citizen Scholars Capstone Project over the past three semesters. Thank you for your support and guidance!

**COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Rachel Manning Community Relations Manager / City of Salisbury)

Randy McFadden (Recreation Program Specialist / Wicomico County)

Tim Bozman (Director of Wicomico county partnership for families and children / Wicomico County)

Deja Parker (Anchor/Reporter for 47 ABC / City of Salisbury)

James Simmons (Recreation Superintendent Wicomico county recreation / Wicomico County)

Adam Rudel (Senior Manager, Marketing Football Outreach)

Kynon Codrington (RCX Sports League Growth Manager)

D'Shawn Doughty (Development manager Greenstreet Housing / City of Salisbury )

**SU CAMPUS LEADERS**

Sarah Heim (Assistant Director of AmeriCorps / PACE)

Dr. Sandy Pope (Associate Professor, Department of Secondary and Physical Education Director / PACE)

Dr. Carolyn Lepre (University President)

Professor Ryan Weaver (Director of Presidential Citizen Scholars (PCS) / PACE)



The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) is a resource center where the SU community, local government, nonprofit and public groups can access knowledge and information. PACE draws on the interdisciplinary expertise of SU faculty, students, staff, and community partners. As a nonpartisan contributor, the Institute organizes projects and programs that are customized to fit the particular needs of the Eastern Shore community. For more information about PACE, visit [www.salisbury.edu/pace](http://www.salisbury.edu/pace) (or email [PACE@salisbury.edu](mailto:PACE@salisbury.edu)).



The PCS Program prepares students to be community leaders through civic scholarship and community action. Over three semesters, Scholars meet with members of the community to identify and research an issue that will culminate in a Capstone Project. Scholars are supported through Salisbury University's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) and the Office of the President. SU's highest purpose is "to empower students with knowledge, skills, and core values that contribute to lifelong learning and active citizenship in a democratic society." This elite program builds on SU's highest purpose by offering students of all majors and disciplines the opportunity to engage in the life of the community, develop habits of democratic citizenship, and become experienced civic leaders. The PCS Program operates under the direction and guidance of Ryan Weaver, PACE/IDIS Lecturer ([rvweaver@salisbury.edu](mailto:rvweaver@salisbury.edu)).