

For Immediate Release  
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## Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA Double Dutch Jump Roping Teams Take Home Medals At World Competitions

Since September, students from many neighborhoods have been coming to the Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA each week, dedicating many hours after school practicing their jumps, spins, dance moves, acrobatics, and rope turning. Many of them have been doing it several years, some even longer. Their goal – to be fast, accurate and creative.

Four teams qualified to travel to Sumpter, South Carolina in June for the World Competition sponsored by the American Double Dutch League. Two of them came home with medals including a first place Grand Champion Gold Medal to the seventh grade team in the doubles category (two jumpers). The seventh grade team also earned third place in the singles category (one jumper). Additionally, the sixth grade team won fifth place in singles.

“I am so proud of all of them for all that they’ve accomplished and worked toward,” said Shannon Malone, head coach at the Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA. “Words can’t explain the feeling I get seeing them grow not only as athletes but as people.”

Double dutch jump roping has developed into an important program offered through a number of branches of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati as an opportunity to instill positive character values, strong work ethics, a sense of teamwork, and healthy bodies in young people.

“Through double dutch jumping roping, we’re not only teaching the skills of the sport, we’re teaching young people about reaching for goals and working together as a team,” said Malone.

Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA World Competition medalists include:

6th Grade Division - Singles Team - 5th Place World Champions  
Alexandra Phillips, School for Creative and Performing Arts-Mt. Healthy; Jasmine Brown, Forest Elementary - Forest Park; Lamiah Baldwin, Winton Forest Elementary- Forest Park

7th Grade Division-Singles Team - 3rd Place World Champions  
Gabrielle Curry, Wyoming Middle School - Wyoming; Johneece Averhart, Pleasant Hill Academy-Colerain; Aaliyah Turner, Pleasant Hill Academy - College Hill

7th Grade Division- Doubles Team - 1st Place World Champions  
Trina Levins- Asst. Coach-Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA; Gabrielle Curry, Wyoming Middle School-Wyoming; Crystal Brown-Asst. Coach-Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA; McKenzie Blum, Finneytown Middle School-Finneytown; Johneece Averhart, Pleasant Hill Academy-Colerain; Aaliyah Turner, Pleasant Hill Academy-College Hill

With more than 83,000 members across the Tri-State, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati has grown to operate 111 program child care, CincyAfterSchool, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning sites in addition to its 17 branches and summer camp locations. The Association is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons, teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness. In 2007, nearly 10,000 kids participated with YMCA scholarships.

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