



Cobb PAL

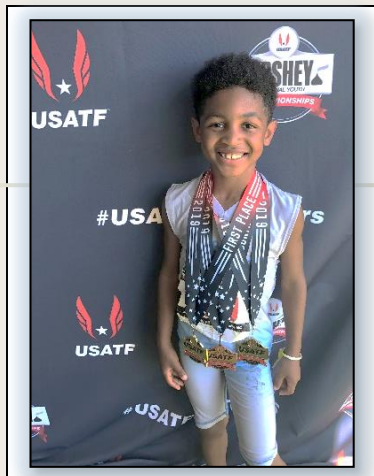
*WORKING TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE
YOUTH OF COBB COUNTY TO INTERACT WITH POLICE*

Cobb PAL has been hard at work and at play these last few months to provide the children and youth of Cobb County the chance to participate in numerous events in sports, recreation, mentoring, community activities and camps. While continuing the well-established PAL programs, Cobb PAL continually strives to add new programs and opportunities for the children and youth of Cobb County. Our PAL volunteers make this goal a reality, as can be attested to by the participation of one of our track "stars", Delano (DJ) Rodgers, Jr.

DJ joined the PAL track team in 2017 when he was 5 years old. He finished his inaugural season as the County Championship runner-up in the 100m, 200m and Standing Long Jump. He returned in the 2018 season to capture the County Championship titles in the 400m, 800m and 4x400 relay. After advancing out of the District Championship, he went on to win the 2018 State Championship 800m title. He finished out 2018 with 2nd place finishes in both the 400m and 800m at the AAU Primary National Championship in Orlando, FL.

In 2019, at 8 years old, under the guidance and coaching of the PAL track staff, he has been having his most successful season to date. He captured the AAU Indoor National titles in both the 400m and 800m and took 5th place in the 200m. He went on to win the County and District Championship titles in the 400m and 800m, setting new records in each. At the 2019 State Championship, he once again won the 800m title, finished second in the 400m and was part of the State Championship 4x100 team. In June, he competed in the USAFT National Youth Outdoor Championship in Durham, NC, where he placed 4th overall in the 200m and won the National Championship titles in both the 400m and 800m, running personal best times of 1:08 in the 400m and 2:34 in the 800m. He will finish out 2019 competing in the AAU National Primary Championship and AAU Junior Olympic Games in July.

When not in track season, DJ plays football and can always be found with his older brother, Ronald, and younger brother, Noah, who are also members of the Cobb PAL track team. DJ is an honor roll student at the International Academy of Smyrna. Congratulations, DJ -- way to go!! (You can follow the success and journey on Instagram@Rodgers_boys3)



Welcome Back!

Check out this latest edition of the Cobb PAL Newsletter to get the scoop on the latest and greatest happenings in the PAL program. On the following pages you can catch up on what's been going on these last few months and what's to come in the weeks ahead. And be sure to check out the "Spotlight," where once again we will be focusing on two prominent volunteers with PAL.

From ongoing programs to innovative fund-raising events, Cobb PAL is constantly striving to make a difference in our community by "working to provide a positive environment for the youth of Cobb County to interact with Police."

SMOKE • N' • GUNS CHARITY BOXING

PRESENTED BY COBB POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE



POLICE
VS
FIRE



SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM -- 1ST BELL AT 7:00 PM



800 BATTERY AVENUE, SUITE 500
ATLANTA, GA 30339

Tickets NOW AVAILABLE for purchase:

www.ticketmaster.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

If Interested in Being a Sponsor -- Contact: Alicia.Hicks@cobbcounty.org



What's Happening in PAL???

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words!



TRACK & FIELD



SMARTATHLETICS
2019 Georgia All-State Middle School Track and Field Banquet

- ★ June 7 – 9: AAU Georgia District Qualifier, Lawrenceville, GA
- ★ June 12 – 14: New Balance Invitational, Greensboro, NC
- ★ June 25 – 30: USATF National Youth Outdoor Championships, Durham NC
- ★ July 5 & 6; July 9-14: AAU Club/Primary Nationals, Orlando, FL
- ★ July 30 – August 4: AAU National Championship, Greensboro, NC

Traveling throughout the Southeast to compete in local and regional track meets, the PAL Track Team has garnered many awards and much recognition. We are proud of all of our athletes (and volunteers!) for the growing track program and the quality and dedication of our PAL athletes!



PAL in the Community



FIELD DAY



Kids from across the county met early on a Saturday morning in May, hopped on a specially reserved Cobb County School bus, and headed to a fun-filled (HOT!) day at the newly renovated JFK Park in Atlanta. The At Promise Field Day brought over 450 youth, 200 volunteers and 100+ law enforcement officers together for a unique series of activities to interact, engage and explore new ways of building positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. Everyone returned safe and sound late in the afternoon after enjoying the food, activities, games and challenges of the day.





PAL in the Community



MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL

From April 26 – May 18, every Friday and Saturday night you could find this group of folks challenging the competition for some great PAL Midnight Basketball! With guest speakers each weekend, the program finished up after four weeks to complete another successful, fun and action packed PAL program!



FOOTBALL CAMP



June 18-21 brought some rain and a few last-minute venue changes, but this year's football camp still finished as a success. Traveling to Harrison High School on the last day to participate in the Oliver Football Camp was the highlight of the week. Another great week of football fun and training with a great group of PAL kids!



The mission is to produce quality youth through the promotion of fitness and sportsmanship, and to encourage high academic achievement. Participation helps young people develop physically, emotionally, educationally and socially through their involvement in PAL programs.



PAL in the Community



PITCHING CAMP



UNITED FOR YOUTH 5K



Over 125 runners competed in the 1st Annual United for Youth 5K on this almost-perfect-for-running Saturday in April. Lots of smiles and good feedback on the course at Green Meadows Preserve. Congrats to all who went home with a medal! Hope to see you at the 2nd Annual United for Youth 5K!!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PAL Volunteers are from many backgrounds and are active in a number of on-the-job and outside activities. Each quarter two wonderful volunteers are highlighted!

Sydney Melton

This quarter's Spotlight is on Officer Sydney Melton.

Officer Melton has been with the Cobb County Police Department since 2012. Sydney is currently assigned to the Cobb County Safety Village as an instructor for public safety education. Prior to working at the Safety Village, she worked as a uniformed patrol officer at Precinct One and as a detective in the Crimes Against Children Unit.

Officer Melton was a volunteer with the PAL Baseball Camp. More recently, she has been a PAL Mentor at J. J. Daniell Middle School. When she is not at work she enjoys playing tennis and a wide variety of crafts.

When asked what was special about Officer Melton, the children responded with comments like, "She is nice and funny," "she is always helpful and kind," "she is *brutal* in dodgeball," "she brings us snacks!" and "she is AWESOME!"

Sydney Melton is another great example of what it looks like to be a Cobb PAL mentor!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PAL Volunteers are from many backgrounds and are active in a number of on-the-job and outside activities. Each quarter two wonderful volunteers are highlighted!

Mike D'Itri

Our second spotlight this quarter is on Michael D'Itri. Mike joined the ranks of Cobb County employees in 2015. He is currently in the Superior Court Clerk's office as a Manager in the Real Estate Division.

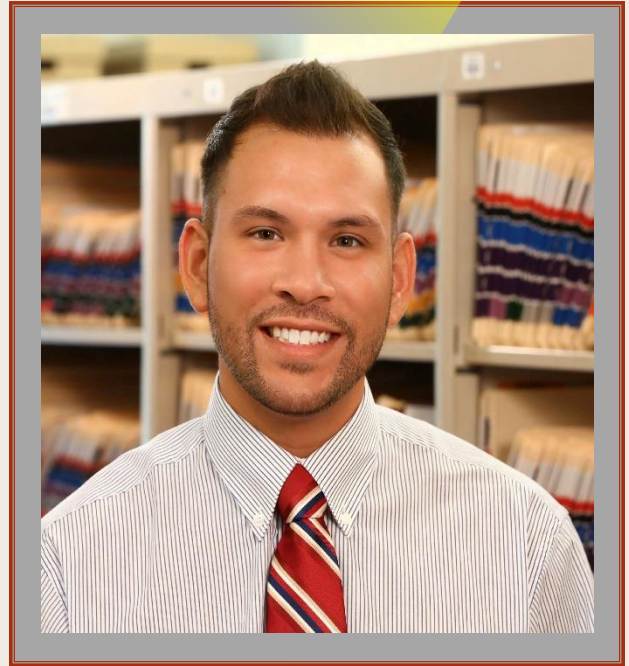
Through the years, Mike's desire to help others through his volunteer efforts has turned into a sincere dedication to the PAL programs and to the youth of our county.

Mike initially volunteered with PAL in 2017, after receiving an email asking for volunteers. He has participated in Midnight Basketball, Football, Soccer and various community events and fundraisers, but Midnight Basketball is his favorite. He has had many personal successes and failures on the basketball court, and strives to use his life lessons (both on and off the court) to have a positive influence on our youth.

Mike states that he chose to volunteer with PAL for several reasons: he has always been a strong supporter of the Police Department; he believes that developing relationships between our officers and the community is vital for any society to thrive; and he enjoys using sports as a catalyst to connect with the youth of today.

According to Capt. Matt Hurst, "Mike is a critical component to the continued success of the PAL Midnight Basketball program. He contributes more hours to that program each year than any other volunteer. The program would not have the quality basketball coaching and positive mentoring relationships that it does without "Coach Mike." Coach Mike's impact is easily seen in the faces of the players that have come to respect him and appreciate how much he cares for them as athletes and young men."

Cobb PAL and the Cobb County Police Department thank you, Mike, and appreciate your continued dedication to the PAL program.



!! SIGN UP NOW !!



YOUTH BOXING



FREE
YOUTH BOXING CLASSES
BEGINNING JULY 15, 2019
BOYS & GIRLS AGES 7 - 17

AGES 7-11: M/W 5:30 PM-7PM
AGES 12-17: T/T 5:30 PM-7PM

LUGO BOXING & FITNESS
3300 CANTON ROAD SUITE B MARIETTA, GA

REGISTER NOW: <https://form.jotform.com/CobbPAL/2019-boxing-7-11>
<https://form.jotform.com/CobbPAL/2019-boxing-12-17>

For More Info Contact:
Alicia.Hicks@cobbcounty.org

★ STEP UP WITH COBB PAL ★ STEPPING TEAM TRY-OUTS



July 17th – and – July 24th
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Training Center Auditorium
2109 Valor Drive, Marietta, GA

BOYS &
GIRLS



GRADES
6 - 12

CLASS BEGINS IN AUGUST ★ NO CHARGE TO PARTICIPANTS

Choose Your Try-Out Date: **7/17** or **7/24** and Sign-Up at:

<https://form.jotform.com/91775883655172>

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And remember to spread the word!



Help YOUR PAL
Every Time You Shop!!



SAVE THE DATE -- AUGUST 27 & 28 -- BASEBALL CAMP

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!!

