



30 July 2024

From: Sean Patton, Chairman, Youth Physical Fitness Program Committee
To: Warren Griffin, National Commandant/CEO
Bob Borka, National Executive Director/COO

Subj: Youth Physical Fitness Program Report

2024 has been a year of transition for the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program. The previous director stepped aside and I assumed this billet with the understanding that the Marine Corps League (MCL) was actively reasserting itself as YPF's lead agency with US Marines Youth Foundation in close support.

The 2022 & 2023 YPF National Championships were held at Catholic High School in Little Rock, AR. This year's championship was held at Arkansas Military & First Responders Academy (AMFRA), also in Little Rock, AR. AMFRA turned out to be a fantastic venue. Many thanks to SgtMaj Jernigan, LtCol Smedley, MSgt Masters and the entire AMFRA team, along with Jim Howington and his local MCL members, for what all present immediately recognized as a first-rate facility and event.

With a successful national championship in the books, our attention turns to growing participation in the program. In decades past, there were over a thousand schools participating. Now, the total number of schools is a fraction of that. Perhaps all-encompassing youth sports or access to technology has to some degree crowded out opportunities like YPF. But I feel confident that, with the right people at each division reaching down into their respective teams for ideas and school partners, we can, at a minimum, flatten out this trendline and get it tipped in an upward trajectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Patton
Chairman
Youth Physical Fitness Program Committee
Marine Corps League