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8 Boston students to meet Obama, athletes from LA Kings, LA Galaxy at White House

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 25, 2013 11:36 AM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Eight students from Boston public schools are set to meet with President Barack Obama on Tuesday and then exercise alongside some of the world's top professional soccer and hockey players on the South Lawn of the White House.

Two reigning national champions, the Los Angeles Kings hockey team and the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team, will visit 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. to be honored by Obama for their recent title victories, according to a press release from the White House.

The children, who belong to one of three youth athletic programs in seven cities including Boston, will watch the ceremony, the release said.

Afterward, the two professional sports teams will host a Let's Move! exercise clinic for the children on the South Lawn of the White House.

The Boston youths who will participate belong to the America SCORES Boston program and are students at the Hennigan Elementary School in Jamaica

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program and the students at the Hennigan Elementary School in Jamaica Plain, Mattahunt Elementary School in Mattapan, Roosevelt K-8 in Hyde Park, and Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School in Roxbury, according to officials from the program.

America SCORES is a national nonprofit that teaches soccer, creative writing and service-learning to at-risk urban youth through both afterschool and summer programming.

Children from the organizations' programs in Atlanta, Cleveland, and Washington, D.C., will also attend Tuesday's events, as will youths from the US Soccer Foundation's Soccer for Success program in Philadelphia and the NHL's Hockey is for Everyone programs in Washington, D.C., Columbus, Detroit and Philadelphia, according to the White House.

The exercise clinic will also be supported by MLS WORKS and the Kings Care Foundation, the league's and team's respectively community outreach initiatives, officials said.

The Kings, led by goaltender and UMass Amherst alum Jonathan Quick, won NHL's Stanley Cup in June. The Galaxy, led by star David Beckham, won the MLS Cup in December.

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