

# YEAR-IN-REVIEW

2024-2025

**SOMA**  
BASKETBALL



**SOMA**  
BASKETBALL  
BOOSTERS



## We're Not Just Playing Basketball — We're Building a Community

### Who We Are

SOMA Basketball is about more than just hoops. It's a movement grounded in visibility, access, and community which allows every child in South Orange and Maplewood to find connection, confidence and joy through basketball. SOMA Basketball Boosters and SOMA Hoops work together to ensure the game reaches every child who wants to play.

## We Are Focused On



### VISIBILITY

Making basketball opportunities easy to find in our community



### ACCESS

Empowering every child through accessible programs and financial support



### COMMUNITY

Fostering meaningful connections across generations

**1,700 + YOUTH ENGAGED BY SOMA BASKETBALL BOOSTERS INITIATIVES**

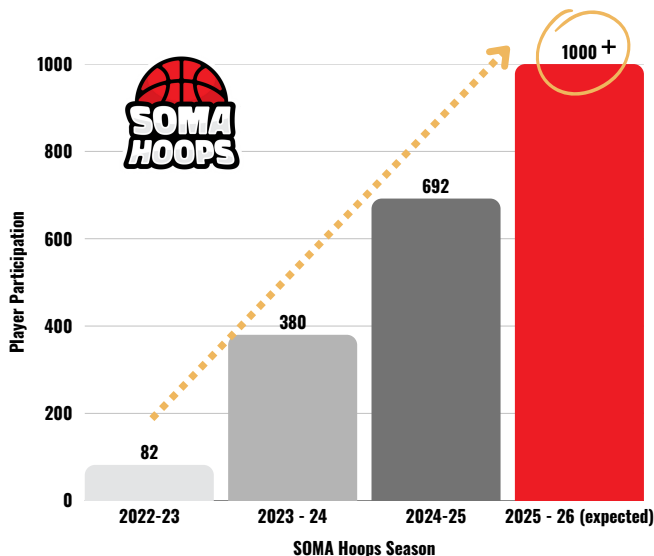
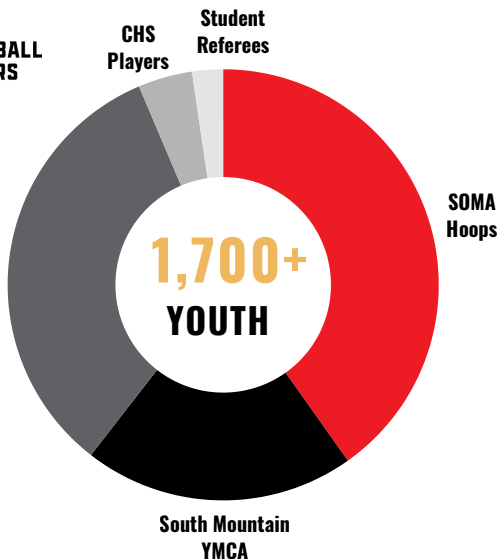
**SOMA HOOPS HAS SEEN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH ALMOST DOUBLING PARTICIPATION EVERY YEAR**



**SOMA**  
BASKETBALL  
BOOSTERS

CHS  
Players  
Student  
Referees

Clinton  
Elementary



Visit [somabasketballboosters.org](https://somabasketballboosters.org) or email [somabasketballboosters@gmail.com](mailto:somabasketballboosters@gmail.com) to join us on our journey, get involved, and learn more!

# FROM THE COURT, TO THE CLASSROOM, TO THE COMMUNITY

**SOMA**  
BASKETBALL



**SOMA BASKETBALL BOOSTERS**



## Impact in Action: 2024-2025 Highlights



### CLINTON ELEMENTARY PE PROGRAM

Provided new basketball supplies



### STUDENT COACHES

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls coached our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade girls teams



### SNEAKER SWAP

Reducing barriers to play



### SOMA SWISH SPONSORSHIP

Teachers and families building community through basketball



### PEER-TO-PEER MENTORSHIP

Guiding 5th-6th grade girls through middle school transitions



### SPIRIT NIGHTS

Connecting youth to Columbia High School & Seton Hall college teams



### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Activating youth in support of important community causes



### SHOOTING CLINICS

Furthering skill development alongside CHS coaches & players



### CHS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting a CHS graduate's next chapter

## IN 2024, SOMA BASKETBALL REACHED NEW HEIGHTS

2024 marked a major milestone for our community—the official launch of SOMA Basketball Boosters as a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With the mission of building a better community through basketball, the Boosters provide critical resources to support programming and initiatives that reach children across South Orange and Maplewood. Whether it's funding new equipment, supporting inclusive leagues, or expanding mentorship opportunities, SOMA Basketball Boosters is working to ensure that every child in our two towns can benefit from the power of basketball.



300 +  
Community  
Volunteers

## Expanding Our Impact in 2025-2026

- **Free Basketball SOMA:** No child excluded due to cost
- **Buddy Basketball:** A neurodiverse-friendly program in partnership with the South Mountain YMCA
- **SOMA Schools Initiative:** Ensuring every PE Program has the basketball equipment & curriculum to teach the game to students
- **Play Past 13:** Offering programs, leagues and volunteer opportunities to combat the trend of teens quitting sports
- **Youth Leadership Pathways:** Cross generational opportunities to mentor & lead others