

**Y-INDIAN GUIDES, Y-GUIDES, AND Y-ADVENTURE GUIDES  
CHRONOLOGY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Milestone/Event/Activity</b>
1926	Harold Keltner, St. Louis YMCA director, assisted by his friend Joe Friday, an Ojibwa Indian, developed the Y-Indian Guides program to support the father's role as teacher, counselor, and friend to his son.
1951	The mother-daughter program, Y-Indian Maidens, was established in South Bend, Indiana.
1954	The father-daughter program, Y-Indian Princesses, emerged in Fresno, California.
1969	Y-Trail programs (for sons 9-11 years old and their fathers) were recognized by the National Longhouse Executive Committee.
1980	YMCA of the USA recognized the Y-Indian Braves program for mothers and sons.
1980s	YMCAs in Minneapolis and St Paul, Minnesota, and in Palo Alto, California, developed non-Indian themed parent-child programs. The programs Y-Voyagers, Y-Guides, and Y-Westerners still exist today. Some Ys followed their models.
1988	YMCA of the USA published <i>Friends Always, The New Y-Indian Guide Participant's Manual</i> , proposing respectful use of the theme and discouraging practices that perpetuate stereotypes from the 1950s.
1992	The Program Committee of the YMCA National Board of Directors affirmed its commitment to the Y-Indian Guide program but encouraged program leaders to be sensitive and authentic in their use of the Native American theme. YMCAs were encouraged to meet with local Native Americans and ask for a review of the program. In areas where the Native American theme was not acceptable, Ys were encouraged to offer alternative programs.
1996	In response to reports of inappropriate practices related to the Native American theme, YMCA of the USA released a technical assistance paper entitled " <i>Responsible Use of the Native American Theme</i> " and disseminated it to all YMCAs
1997	YMCA of the USA revised <i>Friends Always, The Y-Indian Guide Participant's Manual</i> , removing stereotypical pictures, drawings, and concepts.
May 2000	A review of the statistics (declining numbers of Ys offering the program over the past decade) and current family demographics prompted a review of the program.
October 2000	The National Advisory Committee for Y-Indian Guide Programs met in Chicago to discuss critical issues for the future of parent-child programs. On the agenda: possible changes to the program name and content to become more sensitive and authentic.

January 2001	In response to local association division in support of and in opposition to the use of the Native American theme, the chair of the Program Committee of the National Board commissioned a task force to address the issue and recommend a course of action. Task force chair began building consensus regarding program name and content.
April 2001	The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-native schools.
May 2001	The <i>LA Times</i> wrote an article entitled “Y-Indian Guide Program: Recreation or Racism?” The Associated Press picked it up and local media ran Y- Indian Guide stories that called for local Y comment. Task force chair and members of the National Advisory Committee for Y-Indian Guide Programs met to consider changes to the program name and content. Chair, working with complementary task force of YMCA CEOs, approved resolutions to drop “Indian” from program promotions and to appoint a parent-child programs task force to review the program.
June 2001	The Program Committee of the National Board approved the recommendations of the CEO task force.
Summer 2001	YMCA of the USA, distributing a technical assistance paper, “Responsible Use of the Native American Theme,” encouraged local Ys to drop “Indian” from fall program promotions and to review all local program practices assisted by the paper.
September 2001	The National Board of the YMCA of the USA, at its fall meeting, accepted the June recommendations from the Program Committee to eliminate use of the term Indian in promoting the YMCA parent-child program and to appoint a task force to review components of the program.

December 2001	<p>A representative group of local YMCA staff and volunteers met to evaluate YMCA parent-child program and recommended that Y-USA make the following revisions and move quickly to provide new program materials for a fall 2003 program launch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The task force charged the national development team (a smaller group of individuals responsible for revising the current program) to use the framework and structure from the current program (a parent-child focus with parent-child pairs coming together in small groupings) to make slight revisions in the current aims while maintaining the program purpose and pledge and celebrating the program's history and legacy.</li> <li>• The task force, after much discussion and sharing of differences of opinion, concluded that it was time to retire the use of cultural themes and to refrain from copying or imitating any culture.</li> <li>• The task force asked the national development team to stay focused on what matters most: a parent-child program that promotes a strong bond and lifelong friendship between parents and children.</li> </ul> <p>In response, YMCA of the USA released a position statement on YMCA parent-child programs.</p>
January 2002	<p>YMCA of the USA staff appointed a development team, developed a communication plan, and designed a transition packet for local YMCAs.</p>
March 2002	<p>Development team met to discuss ideas for the new Y-Guides Program.</p>
April 2002	<p><i>YMCA Parent-Child Programs Transition Plan: Initial Packet</i> released.</p>
December 2002	<p>Draft materials sent for review received mixed comments. Many felt program needed a more persuasive theme or hook.</p>
January 2003	<p>A second development team endorsed Adventure Guide name and Compass logo concept. Another team met to determine roll-out strategies and communication plan. Association Resources Committee of National Board of Y-USA approves Adventure Guide concept.</p>
May 2003	<p>YMCAs receive information from Y-USA. Ys offering parent-child programs receive Roll-Out kit. Ys not offering parent-child programs receive New Program Launch kit. Y-USA Marketing Coop makes Adventure Guide marketing materials available to all associations for six month period. Materials include photo CD and brochure/poster/flyer art and copy. Starter Kit completed.</p>
July 2003	<p>Kimberly Clark, YMCA of the USA sponsor for family programs, underwrote the cost of sending a free promotion kit to every Y requesting it. which included: <i>Friends Forever, Leading the Way</i>, promotional video, patches, compass and charter.</p>

<p>August/Sept. 2003</p>	<p>Ys begin transition year. Many launch Adventure Guides for the first time. Some Ys reluctant to move quickly and reported they'll take a few years to transition. Others have not made a decision to transition their programs.</p> <p>Y-USA basic program materials sent to all member associations. New materials available through YMCA Program Store: <i>Friends Forever, Leading the Way</i>, Circle Kits, patches, compass and charter. YMCA preferred vendors support Adventure Guide program with a variety of products including t-shirts, officer and event patches, vests, awards, stickers, medallions, etc.</p>
<p>September 2003</p>	<p>Y-USA hosted a faculty academy to train nineteen local YMCA staff to deliver Adventure Guide Director course at program schools and regional trainings.</p> <p>Association Resources Committee of National Board accepted report from the parent-child programs task force, congratulated and sunsetted the task force.</p>
<p>February 2004</p>	<p>YMCA of the USA launches Adventure Guide Web Site.</p>