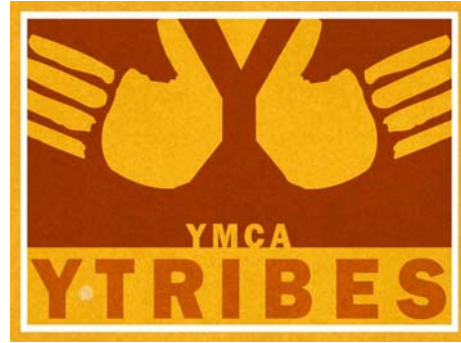


Frequently Asked Questions



What Is Y-Tribes?

A YMCA program that provides regular opportunities for dads and their kids ages 4 - 9 to spend quality time together doing fun things they might not otherwise have the chance to do.

Is Y-Tribes A New Program?

No, it has been around for many years; however, it used to be known as Indian Guides for boys and Indian Princesses for girls (and in some places, it still is).

How Is The Program Structured?

The Y-Tribes program at West Suburban YMCA consists of the "Westwind Nation" (which has about 80 members). Within the nation there are "tribes," which are made up of about 8 dads and their kids. Some tribes are all-boys, some are all-girls, but most are mixed gender (for dads who have both sons and daughters).

What Do You Do In Y-Tribes?

There are Westwind Nation events every month during the school year (September - May). Typical events on the schedule include: 3 campouts (Fall, Winter and Spring), Bowling Bash, ice skating, YMCA Fun Night, Milwaukee Public Museum sleepover, snow tubing at Sunburst, sporting event outings, PAC car race (pinewood derby), a service event (river clean-up, holiday caroling), and a submarine sleepover on the USS Cobia at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Tribes also conduct regular events that are more conducive to smaller groups, including get-togethers at tribe members' homes. All Y-Tribes events are held on weekends.

What Are The Events Like?

The program's cornerstone events are the Fall, Winter and Spring campouts. These 2-day/1-night events are held at various YMCA camps located around Southeast Wisconsin. Tribes stay together in rustic cabins and enjoy a variety of camp activities, including canoeing, hiking, fishing, archery, BB guns, crafts, horseback riding, sledding, rock wall climbing, adventure course, etc. In addition, there are other events such as a "haunted trail" in the Fall, a "snow snake" competition in the Winter and an "Aims" trail in the Spring. The campout agendas are not highly structured, so dads and kids have maximum flexibility to do whatever activities they like.

Other Y-Tribes events are less involved and typically take 3 - 4 hours. Meetings at tribe members' homes typically consist of a story, craft, games and snack. Each event gives dads and their kids a great opportunity to spend time together in a fun and relaxed environment.

Do I Have To Attend All The Events?

Unlike with most activities you or your kids can get involved with, the commitment requirement with Y-Tribes is not heavy. You can attend as many or few of the events as you can fit in your schedule. Of course, because the main premise of the program is to spend time with your child, members are encouraged to attend as many events as possible.

Who Runs The Y-Tribes Program?

The West Suburban YMCA sponsors the Y-Tribes program and assists by providing coordination, logistics and facilities. However, unlike with many YMCA programs, with Y-Tribes, the dads in the program have the flexibility to develop and direct the program to tailor it for their kids.

Who Should Join?

Any dad who wishes to spend time enjoying fun activities with his 4 - 9 year old son or daughter.

Do I Have To Be A Member Of The YMCA To Participate In Y-Tribes?

Even though YMCA membership is encouraged, you don't need to be a member of the Y to be a part of this program.

How Much Does It Cost To Join Y-Tribes?

There is a yearly fee for the program. For YMCA members it is \$ 25 for 2008 - '09, and for non-members it is \$60. In addition, each Nation event entails a fee to cover the overall cost of the event. Typical costs range from \$50 per person for the weekend campouts to \$10 for the PAC Car Race.

Can I "Test Drive" The Program Before Joining?

Yes. If you want to give the program a "test drive" before paying the annual program fee, you may attend the Fall Campout as a guest of the program. This try-out only applies to the program fee; there is still a per camper cost of around \$50.

How Do I Join?

Joining is easy. Simply contact Brian Belt or Christine Larson at the West Suburban YMCA and let he or she know that you would like to join. Brian is best reached at bbelt@ymcamke.org; Christine can be reached at clarson@ymcamke.org or (414) 454-4642. Sign up information is also available in West Suburban YMCA's Fall Program Guide (on page 2), which is available in paper copy at the YMCA or through the YMCA's website at www.ymcamke.org.

If you or your child has a friend who is already in Y-Tribes, let Brian know and he can assign you to that friend's tribe. Otherwise, Brian will assign you based on your preference for a gender-specific tribe (i.e., all- boys, co-ed) or other factors. At the start of the program year, new tribes are often assembled consisting of all new members.

How Do I Get Started?

There is an introductory meeting for those who would like to join the program or those who simply want more information. This meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 6:00 at the West Suburban YMCA. Attendance is not required in order to join the program, but it will provide a helpful way to get started.

How Can I Get More Information?

Follow the link on the YMCA's website to the Y-Tribes program page or hit this link: <http://www.ymcamke.org/site/pp.asp?c=fkLQJ9MXKwH&b=317138>. For answers to detailed questions or to get a better idea about the program, you can contact DJ at dlee@traffic-ad.com or Steve at stevenburk@earthlink.net.