

Welcome to the Richardson YMCA Adventure Guides

The early years of your child's life are vital to their physical and emotional growth. It is a time of discovery. They start to understand that their parents are there to protect and nurture them; to be their guide and teacher as well as parent.

We have designed the YMCA Adventure Guides program to assist you and your child on your journey of discovery. In this program, the father and their child participate together in activities that are designed to be fun for the pair.

The Adventure Guides program in its entirety has been at the Richardson YMCA for the past 10 years. It has transitioned from the YMCA Indian Guides father/child program that originally started at the Richardson YMCA in 1960 and was founded in the US in 1926.

You can find out more about the Richardson program on the website at www.richardsonfamilyymca.org.

Please mark your calendar for

Dads Orientation Night

at the YMCA on October 6th at 7pm in the YMCA gym.

Here you will get a chance to meet the rest of your circle, pick a name, and ask questions. All Kindergarten Dads need to attend this meeting.

FAQs

What is the YMCA Adventure Guides?

The YMCA Adventure Guides is a father/child program designed to help strengthen the bond between the father and his child through activities and campouts.

What is the outfitters contact information?

The outfitter is the Family Program Director, Nick Echtenkamp. He can be reached at 972.231.23424 or by email at nechtenkamp@ymcadallas.org.

Where do I get updates?

You can find updates on the website at www.richardsonfamilyymca.org or through email updates from the outfitter. Working emails are vital to staying up to date with program information!

When should I register for campouts or other events?

Deadlines for campouts are always the Monday before the campout. Deadlines for other events will vary and that information will be posted on the website.

What is a circle?

A circle is a small group which usually consists of 7-10 father/child pairs which meet on a monthly basis. This group also goes to events and campouts together as well as separate circle outings.

What is a navigator?

A navigator is the leader of the circle. They are responsible for leading meetings, planning activities, and giving support to other circle members. They also attend the monthly base camp meeting held specifically for navigators at the YMCA.

What if I have more than one child? Different age? Different sex?

Circles are based on age and gender and our activities are structured around these differences. If you have two twin boys then by all means you can have them together in a Circle. If they are of a different gender or ages we recommend they be part of different Circles.

What kind of activities can I do with my circle?

Many circles do various activities together such as crafts, movies, service learning, and field trips. It is up to the group to decide. The YMCA encourages circles to gather often and spend time together to help the circle grow stronger.

What are Honor Points? What is an Honor Circle?

Every time a circle member attends an event, campout, or meeting they earn points for their circle. At the end of the year these points are added up by our log keeper. The circle with the most honor points becomes the top honor circle. This circle gets honor t-shirts free for the child and the father. Those circles coming in second get t-shirts free for the child.

How do I get directions to the events/campouts?

All the needed information about events/campouts including directions can be found on the website and will be emailed out.

Is there a monthly newsletter?

Yes, the monthly newsletter is posted on the website and will be sent directly to all program participants via email every month.

How do I get in contact with Base Camp?

Expedition Navigator

Luke Plese: lplese@yahoo.com

Base Camp Officers

Craig Wright: cdubya22@verizon.net

Noel Williams: cnw1971@hotmail.com

Patrick Langlinais

Gary Hall

Mike Landers: landersmw@yahoo.com

Leon Verrier: lverriere@hotmail.com

Elder

Jeff Redd: jreddfrog@yahoo.com

Outfitter

Nick Echtenkamp: nechtenkamp@ymcadallas.org

What does the compass stand for?

The compass points True North to the family which is the focal point of the program. Nature and camping experiences are integral parts of the program and it points East. The spirit of the program is experience through belonging to a small Community, called a Circle which is South. Fun points to the West because it is the magic of the program. The YMCA Core Values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility make up the other directional points.

What are the aims?

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart
2. To be friends forever with my dad/son/daughter
3. To love the sacred circle of my family
4. To listen while others speak
5. To love my neighbor as myself
6. To respect the traditions and beliefs of all people
7. To seek and preserve the beauty of Our Creator's work in forest, field,

- ⇒ **If in the event a Dad has 2 kids at the same campout in two different Circles another adult can come to the campout. He will need to sign the Hold Harmless on the registration form and pay full price for the event.**
- ⇒ **The deadline for campouts is the Monday before the campout weekend. All late comers have to be approved by Nick and if approved will be charged up to a \$20 late fee. No Exceptions.**
- ⇒ **Deadlines for other events will be posted prior to the event. Any Registrations taken after the posted deadline will be charged up to a \$20 late fee.**
- ⇒ **Refunds for events will only be given in the event of illness. A doctors note must accompany the refund request form before a refund will be issued. All refunds must be approved by the Program Director, Nick Echtenkamp.**
- ⇒ **Full Refunds are not guaranteed. Most of the events we go to require a down payment and final payment a week before the event. If you apply for a refund after the final payment has been made you may only receive a partial refund.**

Financial Assistance Is Available

2011 Adventure Guides Fall Schedule

August

August 22nd – School Starts

September

September 6th – Flyers go out to Schools

September 9th – Fall Soccer Kickoff, great to get returning Circles back together!

September 15th at 7pm – Parent Informational Meeting at the Richardson YMCA

September 20th at 7pm – Parent Informational Meeting at the Richardson YMCA

September 29th at 7pm – Dads Registration night at the Y

On this night we will gather for a chance to form up and meet the rest of your circle, register for Adventure Guides if need be, choose a navigator, and pick a circle name. If you already have a Circle there will still be valuable information shared, attendance is recommended. For Kindergarten dads only.

October

October 6th@7pm – Navigator Training and 1st Base Camp Meeting

New navigators will meet at the YMCA to learn about the role of the navigator in the circle. Returning navigators will learn new ways to strengthen their circle.

Base Camp meetings are held at the YMCA at 7pm for the Navigators of all Circles. They are to inform you of upcoming events, answer your questions, and provide support for your circles. If the Navigator cannot make the meeting please send another Circle Member in his stead.

October 13th - Induction Ceremony at Breckenridge Park

Join us at Breckenridge Park as we induct our new members in to the Adventure Guides! This event will begin 7pm and the Federation will meet at the two large pavilions. A large council fire will start our evening off as we introduce everyone to the wonders and tradition of the program. Make sure that you and your little explorer or princess are there!

October 15^h - Fishing Derby at Breckenridge Park

October 28th – Trunk or Treat!

Join us from 6:30-8pm at the Richardson YMCA for some safe YMCA Trick or Treating! We will be turning our Parking lot into a miniature Neighborhood where every car will be a chance for your kids to Trick or Treat. Circles are encouraged to enter their own car as a stop. Awards will be given to any car entry!

November

November 3rd at 7pm – Base Camp Meeting

Base Camp meetings are held at the YMCA at 7pm for the Navigators of all Circles. They are to inform you of upcoming events, answer your questions, and provide support for your circles. If the Navigator cannot make the meeting please send another Circle Member in his stead.

November 4th, 5th and 6th

2nd, 3rd and 4th Year Campout at Camp El Tesoro

November 19th, 20th and 21st

1st Year Campout at Camp Grady Spruce – Main Camp

November 24th Thanksgiving Day – YMCA Turkey Trot

The Capital One Bank Dallas YMCA Turkey Trot is the largest Thanksgiving Day event of its kind in the country. Starting from humble beginnings 42 years ago at White Rock Lake, it has grown into the undisputed "Way to Begin Thanksgiving Day" for thousands of locals as well as those who travel to share in our great event. <http://www.thetrot.org/>

December

December 1st at 7pm – Base Camp Meeting

December 3rd - Richardson Christmas Parade

A Richardson YMCA tradition. Put together a float for the parade and enter to win! A great circle activity. Those interested will receive more information as the date draws closer.

Santa's Village

Yay for tradition! Your Richardson YMCA has manned Frosty's House for years and we will once again this year! Come hang out any Thursday thru Sunday night from 6-9pm the three weekends leading up to Christmas.