

# **YADVENTURE GUIDES**

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## **Hiya Hiya Hi!**

## **Welcome to the Rockwall YMCA**



## **DAKOTA**

## **Federation**

## **New Members Handbook**

# **Welcome to the Rockwall**

## **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 Rockwall YMCA for the past six years. It has transitioned from the YMCA Indian Guides father/child program that originally started at the Rockwall YMCA in the 1990's and was founded in the US in 1926.

You can find out more about the Rockwall program on the website at [www.rockwallymca.org](http://www.rockwallymca.org).

Also, please mark your calendar for Dads Formation Night at the YMCA on Thursday, September 23rd at 7:30pm in the YMCA gym. Here you will get a chance to meet the rest of your circle, pick a name, and ask questions. You may also choose to join a pre-existing circle, in which case you will be able to meet the Navigator of that circle.

**\*\*All Kindergarten Dads need to attend this meeting\*\***

## **Resources**

You can find resources at: [www.thepatchstore.com](http://www.thepatchstore.com) where you can find vests, walking sticks, and other Adventure Guides items.

The YMCA Program store where you can purchase "Friends Forever: The Guidebook for Members of YMCA Adventure Guides" at 800.747.0089 (\$12 order # 0-7360-5139-2). More resources are available at the YMCA.

# 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, Laura Beddow. She can be reached at 972.772.9622 or email at [lbeddow@ymcadallas.org](mailto:lbeddow@ymcadallas.org)

## **Where do I get updates?**

You can find updates on the website at [www.rockwallymca.org](http://www.rockwallymca.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 at the YMCA.

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

Circles are based gender and our activities are structured around these differences. If you have a boy and a girl, we have cabins set aside for other fathers with both boys and girls.

## **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 volunteers for an event, campout, or meeting they earn points for their circle. At the end of the year these points are added up by the Outfitter. The circle with the most honor points becomes the top honor circle. This circle will get to have first pick on cabin assignments and event themes for the following season. This circle also gets honor t-shirts free for the child and the father.

**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 Outfitter will be sending out emails with information about upcoming events and activities. Email is a BIG communication tool, so PLEASE provide us with an email address that is checked frequently throughout the month.

**How do I get in contact with the Top Dogs?**

Expedition Navigator:

Steve Buttitta: [sjbuttitta@verizon.net](mailto:sjbuttitta@verizon.net)

Outfitter:

Laura Beddow: [lbeddow@ymcadallas.org](mailto:lbeddow@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, and stream

- ⇒ **If in the event a Dad has 2 kids at the same campout in two different Circles another male adult (grandpa, uncle.. Etc) can come to the campout. He will need to sign the Hold Harmless on the registration form and pay full price for the event, OR we can put you in a cabin with other fathers that have both boys and girls.**
- ⇒ **The deadline for campouts is the Monday before the campout weekend. All late comers have to be approved by Laura and if approved will be charged up to a \$25 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 \$25 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, Laura Beddow.**
- ⇒ **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**