



# YOUTH GUIDELINES

## YMCA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

(Not all amenities available at all locations.)

AGE	Area of Participation	
<b>6 weeks–5 yrs.</b>	<b>Must be within arm’s reach of guardian</b> * General facility * Gymnasium * Climbing wall (ages 5 & up with signed waiver) * Pool * Track	<b>Guardian must be in the building</b> * Youth Development Center
<b>6–9 years</b>	<b>Must be within sight of guardian</b> * General facility * Pool (after a successful swim test; the guardian must remain in the aquatics area but may be out of the water) * Gymnasium * Track * Climbing wall (with signed waiver) * Family-friendly group exercise classes (those marked with a ∞ on the schedule)	<b>Guardian must be in the building</b> * Ages 6-12: Youth Lounge - Allowed to use Youth Development Center when Youth Lounges are not available
<b>The Youth &amp; Family Orientation is required for youth to use the Wellness Center and strongly encouraged for use of other areas of the facility.</b>		
<b>10–12 years</b>	<b>Must be within sight of guardian</b> * Family-friendly group exercise classes (those marked with a ∞ on the schedule) * Wellness Center (orientation required) * Racquetball courts	<b>Guardian must be in the building, but is not required to stay with youth in these areas</b> * Lobby * Pool (after successful swim test, or wearing lifejacket) * Gymnasium and track * Climbing wall (with signed waiver) * Ages 6-12: Youth Lounge
<b>13–15 years</b>	<b>No guardian required; Teen Orientation strongly encouraged</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           * General facility            * Track            * Climbing wall (with signed waiver)            * Wellness Center (orientation required)            * Group exercise classes (orientation required for classes not marked ∞)         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           * Pool            * Gymnasium            * Racquetball courts            * EGYM         </div> </div>	
<b>16+ years</b>	<b>Full facility use; Teen Orientation encouraged, but not required.</b>	

**Youth under the age of 13 may not be in the facility without a responsible adult or guardian.** Youth 12 and under may use certain areas of the facility without direct supervision, as outlined in these guidelines.

**Free Youth & Family Orientations** can be scheduled at the front desk or in the Wellness Center. The one-hour orientation covers basics of exercise science, how to safely use equipment, and Wellness Center and group exercise class etiquette. Completion of the Youth & Family Orientation is required for youth ages 10-15 to participate independently in certain Y activities. Upon completion, youth will receive a bracelet that they should wear when using a YMCA of WNC facility.

**Teen members ages 13–17** can bring a guest without having a guardian stay in the building. An adult **MUST** accompany the minors into the facility and sign the waiver. The guardian does not have to remain in the facility. The guardian signing the waiver can either be the guardian of the member or the non-member. A guardian must be present to sign the waiver upon each and every teen guest visit.

**Additional facility policies, based on center availability:**

- \* Youth must be 16 years or older to use the hot tub, steam room, and sauna.
- \* For greater privacy, and for mixed-gender families with children older than 4, centers have all-gender restrooms available.
- \* For safety, only youth who fit in the required safety harness will be permitted to use the climbing wall.
- \* Swim test: Swim 25 yards without stopping or touching the bottom or wall, tread water for one minute, exit the pool without assistance. Swimmers who do not pass the swim test must wear an approved lifejacket or be in the pool within arm’s reach of a guardian. Swimmers will be tested every 90 days for their own safety.

If youth behave inappropriately, they will be held accountable in the following ways, up to and including:

- \* Verbal warning by Y staff
- \* Notification to parent/guardian
- \* Asked to leave the Y premises