

WHY HAVE A SERVICE CLUB?

IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY ...

- for members to be involved with a community service club that supports the YMCA.
- for development of leadership for the YMCA committees and programs.
- for members to be involved in global service activities.
- for special support of the YMCA camp program. to provide special support for YMCA and community Youth activities.

The basic purpose for starting a Y Service Club is to meet the needs of the community and the YMCA.

A SERVICE CLUB OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE YMCA

The YMCA, as a recognized leader in the community, is also extending a service to its members and other community people by providing them with an opportunity to be involved in an international service club movement.

WHAT ARE Y SERVICE CLUBS?

Y Service Clubs, are part of an international service club movement started in 1922 in Toledo, Ohio with the specific purpose of providing a community service club to work in partnership with the YMCA. There are more than 1450 clubs in 66 countries on six continents of the world.

As was the case with most community service club movements, it started as a men's service club, calling themselves Y's Men's Clubs, They soon became the International Association of Y's Men's clubs or Y's Men International.

Today, Y's Men International, sometimes referred to as Y'sdom, allows local clubs the option of using the names of Y Service Clubs, Y's Men and Women's Clubs or Y's Men' Clubs.

WHO STARTS A Y SERVICE CLUB?

A service club for the YMCA is usually started by persons who have a desire to enhance the capabilities of the YMCA in their community.

These persons join together into a club to provide personal and financial services to the local YMCA. In addition, they learn and enjoy the cultures and people of other countries as well as have fellowship within the club and with members of other clubs.

The persons starting the clubs are interested men and women of all ages, including young adults and youth. They are people who have concerns for and are willing to participate in further developing the YMCA.

Although the traditional and historic name is Y's Men, Y Service Clubs have many women who are members. Many of Y'sdom's leaders are women. In several places, youth are becoming active members and other are joining youth clubs called Y's Youth Clubs.

A service club is started by people like yourself who know and appreciate the high ideals of Y'sdom.

HOW TO START A Y SERVICE CLUB

Almost always, a new club is sponsored by members of an existing club who wish to extend to others the satisfaction that they derive from fulfilling Y'sdom's motto, "To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right".

Contact the U. S. Area Service Director for club Extension whose address is on the back of this pamphlet. He/she will notify the Regional Director in your region who will then locate a sponsor club and an extension team .

This folder will show you how you can get a Y Service Club started.

THE ORGANIZING PROCESS

1. IDENTIFYING NEEDS

The basic purpose for starting a Y Service Club is to meet the needs of the YMCA and community.

The first step is identifying needs in the YMCA and/or the community which are not being met by any other group.

To develop a comprehensive list, contact the YMCA, law enforcement, city leaders, health care providers, university and school authorities, etc. to gather ideas. You may be sure that there will be many needs identified. Select a few of them - and do not be afraid of selecting those with high visibility.

2. IDENTIFYING PEOPLE

The YMCA director, staff, and others both within and outside of the YMCA, demonstrating an interest in working on meeting the needs identifying, are sources for identifying interested people.

3. BRING THE NEEDS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER.

After the needs of the YMCA and the community and a core group of people have been identified, a meeting with representatives of the sponsoring club and the extension team should be arranged.

With the assistance of the Regional Extension Team Member, schedule a meeting to discuss the needs and possible approaches for the development of a club with this nucleus of interested people.



4. FIRST MEETING

At this meeting, Regional representatives will briefly share some of the positive and exciting things about the organization.

Club service activities are basically in three areas: service to the community of which the YMCA is the main focus, service to youth and world outlook activities.

Some of the information shared would be the international fellowship, the unforgettable experiences of Brotherhood Trips, Youth Exchanges, Brother Clubs, and the fun of doing projects and community service together.

At the appropriate time, it should be pointed out that the main support given by the local Y Service Club is to the local community, either directly or via the local YMCA, if one exists.

On the average, over 90% of the funds raised by the local club go to projects and programs in the local YMCA and community with about 10% going to international projects of the YMCA and Y'sdom.

The sponsor club and the Extension Team will answer the core group's questions and help them plan the next step in the process that eventually leads to chartering.

No matter what is discussed during the first meeting, it is very important that it should end with decisions on when the group will meet again and who will be responsible for calling the meeting and developing the agenda.

ROLE OF THE YMCA STAFF MEMBER

For the first steps mentioned above, the YMCA staff person is key as he/she has knowledge of the needs of the YMCA and community and the names of potential members. The responsibility for forming and running the Club will not rest with him/her, but with the volunteers.

CLUB AND YMCA RELATIONSHIP

A Y Service Club can be seen as a complement to existing YMCA programs. To some this may be the most appealing opportunity offered within the YMCA.

The "Principles of Partnership" signed by the World Alliance of YMCAs, YMCA of the USA and Y's Men International in 1981 and again in 1998 identifies the importance of the relationship between Y'sdom and YMCAs. This document has been signed by many YMCAs and their associated Y Service Club, Y's Men & Women's Club or Y's Men's Clubs.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Y'S MEN'S CLUBS

representing
Y Service Clubs, Y's Men & Women's Clubs
Y's Women's Clubs, Y's Men's Club.

International Office

Rolando Dalmas, Secretary General
19 Avenue Saint-Clothide
CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone: 011-4122-809-10-30
Fax: 011-4122-809-15-39

E-Mail: ihq@ysmen.org
Website: www.ysmen.org

U.S. Area Service Directors - Club Extension

Rob Wilby - East

1165 Concord Drive
Haddonfield, NJ 08033-3502
Home #: (856) 429-2726 rewilby@comcast.net

Fred Leonard - MidAmerica

408 Cedarwood Street
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Home # (501) 520-8766 fleonard@cablelynx.com

Ashley (Buck) Cox - West

1075 Space Park Way #82
Mountain View, CA 98203
Home #: (650) 964-3734 buckacox@yahoo.com

US AREA WEBSITE: <http://www.ysmenusa.com>

HOW TO START A Y SERVICE CLUB FOR YOUR YMCA

affiliated with
**Y's Men
International**

