



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Background

What We Stand For

The Belvidere Family YMCA's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Why We Do It

The Y is Belvidere and Boone County's leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening communities for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

We Believe In

Youth Development - Nurturing the potential of every child and teen Youth are taking a greater interest in learning; making smarter life choices; and cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, the pursuit of higher education and goal achievement.

Healthy Living - Improving the health and well-being. Adults and youth receive the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve better health and well-being.

Social Responsibility - Giving back and providing support to our neighbors. The Y helps people give back and assist their neighbors by offering them opportunities to volunteer, advocate and support programs that strengthen community.

At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn and grow. No one is ever denied a membership based on their inability to pay.

What We Do

The Y makes accessible the support and opportunities that empower people and communities to learn, grow and thrive. With a focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y nurtures the potential of every child and teen, improves the nation's health and well-being, and provides opportunities to give back and support neighbors.

How We Do It

There is no other nonprofit quite like the Y. That's because we have the presence and partnerships to not just promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.

- The Y is community centered. For more than 110 years, we've been listening and responding to our community's needs.
- The Y brings people together. We connect people of all ages and backgrounds to bridge the gaps in community needs.
- The Y nurtures potential. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.
- The Y has local presence and national reach. We mobilize the local community to effect lasting, meaningful change.

Our Values

Our core values unite us as a movement. They are the shared beliefs and essential principles that guide our behavior interactions with each other and decision-making.

The four values of the Y:

Caring: Show a sincere concern for others

Honesty: Be truthful in what you say and do

Respect: Follow the golden rule

Responsibility: Be accountable for your promises and actions

Local Y History

In 1902, a group of interested businessmen formed the first YMCA in Belvidere and Boone County. In 1966, a strong organization of community citizens banded together and raised more than \$700,000 for a new building. In February, 1968, a modern new facility including a swimming pool, gymnasium, locker and shower rooms, weight room, meeting rooms, game and club rooms, craft room, teen center and administration offices was dedicated. Renovations to the facility were completed in 1999. The Y began and has stayed committed to providing services to Boone County for more than 110 years.

The Belvidere Family YMCA has adapted to meet the changing needs of Boone County for many years. All ages, races, abilities and income levels are served. No one is ever denied because of inability to pay. The Y is so much more than a gym and swim. Our goal is to help build a strong foundation for the community based on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility both inside and outside the walls of the facility.

Adventure Club History

The local Y has provided before and after school care, named Adventure Club, to youth in District 100 for more than 15 years. The program, located in the Belvidere Family YMCA's physical location, is a safe, structured environment for youth. The Y currently offers before and after school care. We understand that parents have hectic schedules and some have longer commutes so we provide care beginning at 5:30am until the school day begins and then resume directly after school ends with care until 6:00pm.

In the morning, parents can drop off their children and the YMCA staff will serve a light breakfast, help with schoolwork, play games with the children and then drop them off to school. Currently, the schools served are Perry, Washington, Lincoln, Meehan, Seth Whitman, Immanuel, St. James and South and Central Middle Schools.

Every day after school, the YMCA vans pick up at the schools and bring the students back to the Y. After school activities include completing homework, team building, swimming, fitness classes, team sports and arts & crafts. An afternoon snack is included.

The Y has a weekly fee structure based on if participants in Adventure Club are members or non-members of the Y. Families can choose before school care, after school care or both. In addition, the Y accepts YWCA approved state funding. This allows more families to be able to secure affordable care for their children.

Adventure Club Testimonial

"My son has attended the YMCA Before and After School Adventure Club for 4 years. He enjoys spending time with the friends he's made there and the many activities that are offered. I enjoy the peace of mind I get from knowing that he's happy, staying active and being taken care of by caring and knowledgeable counselors. Communication between the counselors and parents is one of the key components to the success of this YMCA program. I'm thankful for the excitement that this constantly evolving program brings to my child year after year."

~Betty Sullivan (mom to Brad)

"My girls have been attending The Belvidere YMCA Adventure Club for the last two years. It has helped their personalities bloom! They are more outgoing, empathetic, sharing, and possess team skills that they did not have prior to attending this program. But I'd have to say that what I love most is how the counselors have helped in teaching my girls responsibility. Homework is completed prior to getting home. I can't begin to tell you how this much this helps our entire family out! Both my husband and I work full time and get home later in the evening. Having homework out of the way gives us time to spend as a family."

~ Angel Kurpius (mom to Dani & Emma)

Adventure Club: North Boone Proposal

The Belvidere Y is proposing to partner with the North Boone School District to provide quality before school care to the students in attendance at Poplar Grove Elementary School. North Boone Adventure Club would be located on site at Poplar Grove Elementary. The program would run from 5:30am until the start of school. A light breakfast, prepared by the staff, would be provided to the children. In addition, the staff will provide help with schoolwork, play games with the children, gym time (as permitted) and arts & crafts.

The ratio will be 1 counselor for every 10 participants, with a minimum of two staff members present at all times. All staff members will be DCFS background check approved. In addition, all staff members will be trained in proper behavioral management for youth.

The Belvidere Y will supply a copy of insurance coverage for the program prior to implementation. The Belvidere Y is fully insured with West Bend, represented through Williams Manny in Rockford.

There would be no cost to the school district for this program. This program is being presented to fill a need for service in the community. The Belvidere Y will manage the payments and enrollment paperwork from parents for the program. The cost scale for Before School Adventure Club would be as follows:

- \$40 a week per child for members
- \$45 a week per child for non-members
- State funding accepted through YWCA approved cases (plus co-pay when assigned by YWCA)

The pricing includes each student the availability of:

- Up to 12.5 hours of care a week before school
- Daily light breakfast
- Homework assistance
- Activities based on youth development

Implementation of Before School Adventure Club at Poplar Grove Elementary would occur in August 2013 through school year 2013-2014. Promotion of this program would occur through a mailing to students attending Poplar Grove Elementary School.

The Belvidere Y will ensure open lines of communication to discuss success of this program and further collaborations between the two entities. Success of the program will be monitored through parental satisfaction surveys, number of enrollees (minimum of 10 per week) and positive collaborative relationship between the North Boone School District and the Belvidere Family YMCA.