



# Parent-Child Program

*A New Beginning*

# Beginnings...

In the early 1920s, **Harold Keltner**, a YMCA executive in St. Louis, Missouri, and **Joe Friday**, an Ojibway Indian hunting guide, **founded a YMCA parent child** program called Y Indian Guides. This program was based on dignity, patience, endurance, spirituality, feeling for the earth, and concern for the family.



Therefore, keeping the wonderful legacy of Harold Keltner and Joe Friday always in mind, we present...



# *YMCA Adventure Guides*

*A New Direction*

*“Friends Forever”*

**YADVENTURE GUIDES™**

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

*Parent & Child  
on a  
Journey Together*

*“Friends Forever”*



*We use this compass as a tool to navigate the journey.*



## Explanation of the Program Compass

- The Family is True North – the focal point of the program
- Nature and the camping experience are an integral part of the program
- The spirit of the program is experienced through belonging to a small Community called a circle
- Fun is the magic of the program



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## Explanation of the Program Compass - continued

The YMCA core values provide direction as parents guide children on their journey

Caring

Honesty

Respect

Responsibility



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## Program Aims and Purposes

Purpose: The purpose of the YMCA Adventure Guides Program is to foster companionship between a parent and a child.

Slogan: "Friends Forever"

Aims:

- ✓ To be clean in body and pure in heart
- ✓ To be Friends Forever with my father/mother/son/daughter/family
- ✓ To love the sacred circle of my family
- ✓ To listen while others speak
- ✓ To love my neighbor as myself
- ✓ To respect the traditions and beliefs of all people
- ✓ To seek and preserve the beauty of the Creator's work in forest, field, and stream

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## In YMCA Adventure Guides

The Parent Is the Y Guide

The Child Is the Y Explorer

*and sometimes the roles will reverse!*



## Structure:

Guide & Explorer = Parent and Child Pair

- Circle = Group of Guides and Explorers
- Expedition = Group of Circles
- Federation = Group of Expeditions



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## Expedition/Circle Leadership Positions

Navigator	Leader of Circle or Expedition
Compass Bearer	Assistant Leader of Circle or Expedition
Treasure Keeper	Maintains Program Funds and Properties
Log Keeper	Communications
Naturalist	Does Ceremonies/Tells Ceremonies
Scout	Recruitment
Elder	Former Leader
Outfitter	Program Director



## Expedition or Circle Meetings

Federation Base Camp	Meeting of Expedition Navigators and Federation Leaders
Base Camp	Meeting of Expedition Leaders and Circle Navigators
Circle Meeting	Meeting of Guides and Explorers in the Circle

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## Ideas for Circle Names:

- The name should have meaning.
- The name could be linked to a town, neighborhood, or street.
- The name can also be linked to a mutual interest.
- The name should not copy or imitate others.
- The name can build on the program theme.
- The name should stand the test of time.

*For Example:*

*Links to town/street (Elm Street Eagles, Niguel Nuggets)*

*Test of time (extension of non-Indian tribal names, e.g., Whispering Pines, Black Water)*

*Theme specific (Pathfinders, Pioneers, Trackers, Voyagers, etc.)*

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## The program uses imagery and creativity

- Patches to recognize participation in events, organizational positions, etc. Patches would reflect the Adventure Guides theme.
- Apparel, including a vest on which to put the Adventure Guides patches, and hats or head gear. Leader Apparel (walking sticks, medallions)
- Guides and Explorers will select adventure names that reflect their personal interests or personality traits, e.g., Swift Skier, Wise One
- Element of spirituality

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The program has the following other elements:

- Maintains strong emphasis on parent and child doing activities TOGETHER
- Introduces and welcomes FAMILY participation
- Continues emphasis on volunteer participation and leadership
- Allows the local Y the creativity to expand the MAGIC!

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## These are typical program activities:

- Songs
- Skits
- Stories
- Ceremonies
- Arts/Crafts
- Gathering Expedition/Circle Property
- Awards
- Greetings
- Family Opportunities
- More Ideas for Maintaining the “MAGIC”

*“Friends Forever”*



“The cost of perfection will drive you out of business. What you are striving for is magic, not perfection.”

Michael Eisner

*“Friends Forever”*



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A new direction, a new beginning