

Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA **Adventure Clubs**

FAQ's

General Program Information:

1. What is the program?

This program is dedicated to building life time bonds between parents and their children through events that they participate in to build character and demonstrate values.

2. What is the time commitment?

The time commitment can be whatever you make of it. You can attend as many campouts as you want with your nation. If you would like to be more involved you can arrange to be a Chief of your tribe and eventually a Nation chief or Medicine man, in which case the time commitment is very involved.

3. What is a nation? What is a tribe?

The Adventure Club program is broken into 10 large nations. Each nation is comprised of approximately 350 participants which is further broken down in to tribes. There are approximately 15 tribes in each nation. The members of each tribe work together at each campout. The tribe is your Adventure club family. You will camp together, eat together and meet once a month outside the campouts.

4. What is a nation chief, tribe chief?

A Nation chief represents the entire nation, they conduct monthly Longhouse meetings, they are the main liaison with the YMCA and their Nation and they are the Nation's support and leader.

A Tribe chief is delegated for each tribe within a Nation to represent that tribe at Longhouse meetings, to make sure the information passed from the YMCA reaches its members. Each tribe should ideally host an event each season.

5. Do I have to attend all of the campouts?

No, you can choose to participate in as many as you would like.

6. Can I try out the program?

Yes, you can attend one campout without registering for the nation.

7. When does the season start and what is the time frame?

The season starts in September and runs concurrent with the school year. However, you may join a Nation mid-season.

8. How do I join a nation and a tribe?

If you know someone already in a nation and tribe you can register with them. In this case you would call Tommi Mann, the Adventure Clubs director at 760-942-9622 X 1022, and she would place you with a nation and tribe that has children from your child's school.

9. How do I register for the campouts?

-You can register by calling registration at 760-635-3050, in person at the YMCA registration desk or you can go to your Nations Y-Space page to register.

10. Who do I contact with questions or more information?

-You can go to your Nations Y-Space page, contact your YMCA coordinator at 760-942-9622 or your Tribe or Nation chief.

11. What is Y-Space?

-Y-Space was created for participants to be able to locate information regarding campouts and their nations on-line 24/7. The y-Space link is http://eckecamp.org/pub/adventure_guides/

12. What is a coordinator?

-A Coordinator is a YMCA staff that is responsible for group planning and reserving camps as well as working with and building relationships with each nation's leadership.

Financial Information:

11. Why are there member/nonmember prices?

-The YMCA is a membership organization and all programs have pricing based on member and participant fees. For consistency, it is important that the Adventure Club program conforms to this same model.

12. What is Annual Giving?

-As a nonprofit organization, the YMCA must fundraise a certain amount of money each year. The money that your tribe and nation raise will allow children and families to participate in YMCA programs that they would otherwise not be able to afford. All of the money that is raised by your tribe and nation stays here at the Magdalena Ecke YMCA to help children and their families in your community. Participants in the Adventure Club program are also eligible for financial scholarships and the YMCA encourages families to apply.

13. What will this cost me? What do campouts cost?

-The cost to join Adventure guides is \$75 for a Y member and \$90 for a non-member annually. The cost for campouts range from \$30 to \$175 depending on what type of camp it is.

14. Is there financial assistance?

-We do provide financial assistance, you need to contact Cindy O'Brien, fill out an application and provide tax returns for the last year as well as 2 pay stubs.

Policies and Procedures:

15. What is the code of conduct?

-The code of conduct is in place to make all YMCA Adventure Clubs participants aware of YMCA policies and hold them accountable to be respectful and behave properly.

16. What is your cancellation policy?

-We do not accept cancellations after 6pm on the Tuesday before the campout that you are registered for. If you cancel after this date/time due to illness, a doctor's note must be submitted to the Adventure Clubs director, Tommi Mann.

17. Do I need to be a member of the YMCA?

-No, you do not need to be a member of the YMCA to Participate in Adventure Clubs.

18. Do I need to be a member of Adventure Clubs?

-Yes, to participate in Adventure Clubs you need to be a member, which requires a yearly registration fee.

19. What are the ages to participate in the program?

-Children must be 5 years old to start in the program. The event programming is designed to be age appropriate for children 5 years and older: including younger children creates safety issues.

-The ages are 5 to 10 year olds for the Guides, Princesses, Y-Maidens and Y-Explorers

-Ages 9 to 13 for Trailmates, Trailblazers and Trailexplorers.

20. Can I bring my other kids on the campouts?

-You can bring other children to the camp out if they fit the criteria for the Nation you are registered for. We also have family campouts which the entire family can attend.

21. Can I bring a friend?

-Yes, if they would like to try out the program, they can sign up for one campout without paying the Nation registration fee.

22. Can my husband be in princesses and guides?

-Yes, if you have a son and a daughter you can register for both a guide and a princess nation, there is a discount for joining a second nation. You may not bring your son to a princess event or vice versa.

23. Can boys go to girl events and vice versa?

-No, we do not mix the guides and the princess events. The guides and the princesses have very different traditions and we like to keep them separate to honor those traditions and preserve the bonding experience that you have with your son/daughter.

24. What is the drinking policy at campouts?

-It has always been the policy of the YMCA that no alcohol or smoking is allowed at any YMCA events.

25. What is the policy on bringing pets to a campout?

-Pets are not allowed at campouts. Some parents and children may be afraid of dogs or allergic. Likewise, not all venues allow pets. The YMCA philosophy is better safe than sorry, even nice dogs sometimes bite.

Camp out/Event Information:

26. What comes with a campout?

-The location fee, patches, coordinating of the event, catering and cabins at certain venues.

27. What is a material packet?

-A material packet is an informational packet of the Adventure Clubs program and includes 2 leather rounders, 2 patches and 2 leather lanyard strings. This packet is a good start for new members and costs \$12.00.

28. What is the vest?

-A vest can be purchased from the Next Step Shoe Repair and they are used to display all of your patches that you receive for attending campouts and doing different events.

29. What equipment do I need?

-Depending on whether or not the campout is tent or cabin, we have specific and detailed packing lists on our Y-Space pages. You and your tribe will meet and decide before each campout what is needed.

30. Is food provided?

-Depending on the venue, some are catered. Otherwise you and your tribe usually will figure out who brings what or if you are all on your own for food.

31. How often will you meet with your tribes?

Tribes generally meet once a month before a campout to plan food and arrangements for that following campout.

32. What happens at a campout?

-A campout generally has a Nation dinner on Friday night, then Saturday is filled with activities like a chief competition, bead trading, appetizers, hikes, a bear claw event and a Nation fire. Sunday is usually Zocolo, which is our closing ceremony and then everyone packs up to leave.

33. Who is in charge at the campouts?

-The nation chief along with the Host tribe is usually the contact point for each camp out. If an emergency should occur the Firestarter is a YMCA employee and has been trained to deal with any situation.

33. Does the Adventure Club program hold any events at the YMCA?

-We do many events in the Adventure Clubs program. We have a recruiting picnic, a Dream Catcher Kick-off Dinner, Holiday Parade, Sweetheart Ball, Guides event, Taste Of Adventure Guides.

34. What is the Welcome Back Picnic/Recruiting Event?

-This is a YMCA event to welcome returning members and give new members an opportunity to check out the program. This event is designed to simulate a campout and help tribes and nations grow and kick-off the season.

35. If I am already enrolled should I attend the picnic?

-Yes, it is a fun get together for all Nations to kick-off the new season, and it is a great way to recruit and introduce new members to the program.

