



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

JULY 2025



SUMMER EXCITEMENT IN FULL SWING!

Dear YMCA Family,

Summer has arrived in full swing and with it comes the vibrant energy and excitement that fills our branches, camps and communities. There's nothing quite like the sound of children's laughter echoing across our Ys, the sight of families gathering by the pool or the warmth of volunteers stepping up to make a difference. It's during this season that the mission of the YMCA comes to life in such visible and inspiring ways.

Across our association, thousands of children are engaging in unforgettable summer camp experiences—building friendships, exploring the outdoors, learning new skills and developing confidence. These moments not only create lasting memories but also serve as the foundation for healthy development and personal growth. We are so proud to be a trusted partner in every camper's summer fun.

As we embrace this season of sunshine and outdoor fun, it's also a time to recommit to safety—especially around water. The "Phones Down, Eyes Up" campaign is a call to action for all caregivers to stay alert and engaged around pools, lakes and beaches. Additionally, our water safety and swim programs continue to equip children and adults with the skills and confidence they need to stay safe in the water.

This summer, we are also reminded of the incredible impact our volunteers have on our Y community. From supporting literacy initiatives and community meals to helping with events and serving on committees, volunteers are the heartbeat of the YMCA. Their time, talent and dedication help us expand our reach and deepen our impact. If you're not already involved, now is the perfect time to raise your hand—we'd love to have you join us.

Together, we are creating a summer full of promise, purpose and possibilities for every child, adult and family who walks through our doors. Thank you for being part of our YMCA family and for making our community stronger every day.

Wishing you a safe, joyful and connected summer,

Gene T. Jones
President and CEO
YMCA of Southwest Florida



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing the potential of every child and teen for a path to success.



HEALTHY LIVING

Improving health and well-being through partnerships with health care.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Foster a greater sense of engagement to provide support to our neighbors.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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SKY ACADEMY ENGLEWOOD SHINES IN ELA

We're thrilled to share that SKY Academy Englewood students are outperforming both county and state averages in English Language Arts (ELA). **With an 83% pass rate on the ELA F.A.S.T. assessments—compared to 67% in the county and 60% statewide**—our students and staff are proving what's possible with the right environment, expectations and encouragement.

We're incredibly proud of their academic growth and the continued excellence of the SKY Academy approach. Congratulations to our scholars and staff for a job well done!

Learn more about SKY Academy and its vision by [CLICKING HERE](#).



YMCA EARLY LEARNING ACADEMIES ACHIEVE 92% KINDERGARTEN READINESS



YMCA of Southwest Florida is proud to announce an exceptional 92% Kindergarten Readiness Rate among our Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) students—well above the state average of 64%. This is a powerful testament to the strength of our Early Learning Academies, serving over 150 VPK students at our four centers located at the Venice YMCA, PGT, Charlotte Harbor and Bonita Springs YMCA.

"Achieving a 92% readiness rate reflects the dedication of our teachers and the trust of our families."

— Diana Jacobson,
Executive Director of Early Learning —

Our caring educators use hands-on, play-based curriculum that support each child's academic, emotional and social growth.

Low teacher-to-student ratios, regular assessments and a focus on character development ensure every young learner is prepared for success.

Ready to set your child up for kindergarten success? Learn more and explore enrollment options BY [CLICKING HERE](#).



SUMMER CAMP SPARKS DISCOVERY AND GROWTH



This summer, YMCA of Southwest Florida will provide nearly 18,000 summer camp experiences—each one filled with adventure, learning and connection. From nature hikes and water days to science experiments and creative projects, campers are discovering new interests and building lifelong friendships.

Camp is more than just fun—it's a safe, nurturing environment where kids grow in confidence, resilience and independence. With the support of our dedicated counselors, volunteers and staff, every camper has the chance to try something new and shine in their own way. Here's to a summer of possibilities!

To enroll and give your child the BEST SUMMER EVER [CLICK HERE](#) today!



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HEALTHY LIVING

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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FIGHTING HUNGER WITH HEALTHY MEALS ALL SUMMER LONG



Did you know the Y fights hunger year-round? This summer, we're proud to offer free, healthy meals for kids through our Summer Food Program—helping families stretch food budgets while ensuring children have the nourishment they need to grow and thrive.

Daily Meal Sites

Meals must be eaten on site

Monday–Friday, Serving Times Listed Below

- **Bradenton YMCA:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- **Sarasota City YMCA:** 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM
- **Palmer Ranch YMCA:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- **SKY Academy Englewood:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **SKY Academy Venice:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Englewood YMCA:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Franz Ross YMCA:** 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM
- **Cooper Street Recreation Center:** 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM
- **Burnt Store Presbyterian Church:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Weekly Meal Pick-Up Sites

Each child receives 14 meals to serve as a week's worth of breakfast and lunches.

Speer Center – 185 W Winifred St, Arcadia, FL 34266
Wednesdays, June 4 – August 6 | 4:00–6:00 PM

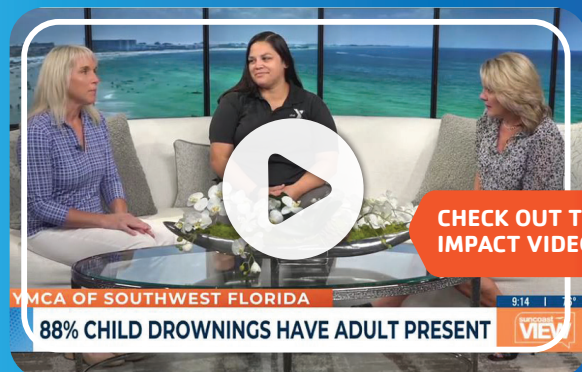
Glades County Library – 201 Riverside Dr. SW, Moore Haven, FL 33471
Tuesdays, June 3 – August 5 | 4:00–6:00 PM

Harlem Civic Center – 7 Street, Clewiston, FL 33440
Thursdays, June 5 – August 7 | 4:00–6:00 PM

WATER SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU: PHONES DOWN, EYES UP™

Drowning is fast, silent—and preventable. This summer, YMCA of Southwest Florida is raising awareness through our commitment to water safety and the national Phones Down, Eyes Up™ campaign.

Don't miss our powerful video segment featuring YMCA Board Member Libby Soberberg and Association Director of Aquatics Cassy Velarde, as they share the Y's critical work to keep kids safe around water. They break down how you can get your child into swim lessons and why staying alert—especially around pools, lakes and beaches—is lifesaving.



These everyday actions only take seconds—but so does drowning. **88% of child drownings happen with at least one adult present.** That's why we encourage all families to assign a Water Watcher: a designated, sober adult with no distractions, whose only focus is supervising children in and around water.



Your eyes can save lives.

Take the pledge and learn more at PhonesDownEyesUp.org.



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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

JULY 2025

EVENT HIGHLIGHT: SAFETY AROUND WATER DAY



Thanks to the incredible generosity of SWIMPACT by POOLCORP, our 2025 Safety Around Water Day was a splash across our association! POOLCORP presented a \$27,050 check to serve 350 youth swimmers and train 17 future lifeguards.

Despite a rainy day at many sites, more than 200 participants joined in the fun and learning. This special day also marked the official launch of YMCA swim lessons at Port LaBelle Pool in Hendry County—opening up new access for families in that area.

DRIVEN BY PURPOSE, POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP: SYMBIONT SERVICE CORP TAKES A STAND AGAINST HUNGER



A heartfelt thank you to Symbiont Service Corp for sponsoring our Nourish to Flourish program—and showing up to volunteer not once, but twice! Your gift of time, treasure and talent is feeding hundreds of children and expanding food access across our region. We are truly grateful for your commitment to nourishing both bodies and futures.

If you or your business is interested in learning more about how you can get involved this summer click here: [Food Sponsorships.](#)

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



ENDLESS SUMMER
JULY 26, 2025



**VENICE YMCA
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

[Click here for more information!](#)



**BONITA SPRINGS YMCA
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

[Click here for more information!](#)



RIVER NIGHTS
OCTOBER 4, 2025

[Click here for more information!](#)



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
OCTOBER 4, 2025



HARBOR NIGHTS
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

[Click here for more information!](#)



**PETE MASON MEMORIAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**
NOVEMBER 14, 2025

[Click here for more information!](#)



CASINO ROYALE
JANUARY 31, 2026

[Click here for more information!](#)



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