

# YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada Program

Give your group the experience of a lifetime!

## What is the YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada (YEC) program?

It's a national exchange opportunity for youth aged 12–17 funded by the Government of Canada. The program pairs school and community groups from different regions in Canada for a reciprocal exchange. Participants travel to a different part of the country, immerse themselves in a new community, and host their twin group in their community. Youth develop essential skills, cultural awareness, and leadership.

## Why Get Your Group Involved?

- ✓ **Elevate your youth programs:** Provide students with hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom.
- ✓ **Strengthen cultural awareness:** Help youth discover Canada's diversity through real-life experiences.
- ✓ **Enhance leadership & teamwork:** Support youth in developing new skills, confidence, independence, and collaboration.



## Group Eligibility

- Groups must be part of a recognized school or organization, with 10–30 participants.
- Members must be 12 to 17 years old and be first-time participants in YEC.
- Leaders must be a minimum of 19 years old and apply on behalf of their group.



## Program Costs & Funding

- There is a participation fee for each group member.
- Travel for all eligible participants and organizers is funded by the Government of Canada.
- Local hosting, transportation, and activities costs are the group's responsibility.

## Testimonials

“This exchange program was easily laid out, very accessible, and inclusive of everyone. Many of our students would not have been able to do this exchange without the support of the program and our school community.”  
—Group leader

“From start to end, I was well supported and felt confident travelling with a large group of students, as I knew I had the support from the regional coordinator.”  
—Teacher



## How to Register Your Group

- Visit [ymcagta.org/yec](https://ymcagta.org/yec) to learn more and apply.
- Contact us at [info.yec@ymcagta.org](mailto:info.yec@ymcagta.org) for inquiries



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