

WHO ARE THE YOUNG MARINES

The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls. The Young Marine program promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, teamwork and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines is the official youth program of the U.S. Marine Corps and the focal point for the Marine Corps' Youth is Drug Demand Reduction efforts.



MEMBERSHIP

The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school. Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings, in 1958, with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to over 240 units with 12,000 youth and 3,000 adult volunteers in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and, Germany, Japan and affiliates in a host of other countries.

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TRAINING

Upon joining the Swansboro Young Marines, youth undergo a orientation program, which is affectionately called "Boot Camp" Each youth must attend 26 hours. for completion of Boot Camp. During this time your youth will attend meetings on Friday evenings and an occasional Saturday mornings at Woodman of The World Lodge, The youth learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness, and military rank structure. After graduating from Young Marine Boot Camp the youth have the opportunity to learn more new skills, earn



rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Young Marines earn ribbons for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid and drug resistance education.

Our Young Marines experience many opportunities to challenge themselves physically, emotionally and mentally by climbing alpine towers, flying with the Young Eagles, rafting, giving to the community, providing color guard services to local organization, and many more.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Swansboro Young Marine unit is a community-based program lead by dedicated adult volunteers. Our volunteers consist of former, retired, active duty and civilian adults. It is through these caring adults that Young Marines learn the inner values of *Leadership, Discipline and Teamwork* . Adult volunteers are individually screened by the National Headquarters based on background information and recommendations provided with each person's registration.



NATIONAL PROGRAMS

During the summer months, Young Marines have the opportunity to attend the Young Marines National Summer Programs of: Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools (SPACES).

Schools consist of leadership courses.

Adventures, have a historical emphasis and are designed with the younger child in mind. In contrast, older Young Marines can participate in Challenges.

Challenges consist of training in areas such as survival skills, wilderness training, flight school, and water-based activities. Young Marine Encampments provide the opportunity for Young Marines of all ages to gather together and train as a large unit of up to 700 youth at a time. Over 3,000 Young Marines participate in the SPACES programs each year.

