

**What is the free 7<sup>th</sup> grade membership?**

The YMCA of Greater Birmingham's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Initiative offers seventh-grade students a complimentary youth membership during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year

**Does the Y have free memberships for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 6<sup>th</sup> graders, or other grades?**

No. The program and membership access is intended specifically for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Why 7<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Seventh grade is a pivotal and transitional time for many teens – sports become more competitive and provide less opportunity for the average child to be involved in physical activity. Additionally, it is a time when teens are often given more freedom to choose how they spend their free time. Habits that begin in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade are likely to continue into adulthood. At the Y, we want to support and encourage kids to make good decisions and form healthy habits that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

**Does the 7<sup>th</sup> grader have to go to a school in the Birmingham area?**

Yes. This membership is only for 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Jefferson or Shelby county.

**How long is the membership effective?**

Students are eligible August 1st of their 7<sup>th</sup>-grade year through May 31st.

**What do I need to bring to prove that the student is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade?**

We trust the enrolled parents and students are abiding by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade requirement

**What if the student is homeschooled?**

Home schooled students completing the required orientations are welcome in the program.

**I don't have a YMCA membership. If I sign my 7<sup>th</sup> grader up for a membership, can I workout with them — will I also get a free membership?**

This free membership is only available for current 7<sup>th</sup> graders. However, we would love for family members to join the Y and enjoy the same benefits of membership. Complete this [Membership Inquiry Form](#) and a Membership Engagement Director will reach back with more information. Membership Rates and Categories can be found [HERE](#).

**I have an existing membership that includes a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, do I get a discount?** If your 7<sup>th</sup> grader is the only youth/dependent on the family membership, you can downgrade to an adult only and have the youth do the free membership.

**I just found out about this program, can I get reimbursed for the months I have already been paying for my 7<sup>th</sup> grader?**

Any existing memberships will be adjusted at the time of enrollment into the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Initiative. Enrolment will not be retroactive

**If I have more than one 7<sup>th</sup> grader in my family (i.e. twins or triplets), is my family still eligible for this membership?**

Absolutely.

**Can a 7<sup>th</sup> grader sign up for this membership on his/her own, or does a parent/guardian need to be present to sign and complete the 7<sup>th</sup> grade membership application?**

A parent guardian will need to complete the electronic enrollment process on location at the Y or Online remotely. Parents/guardians will need to complete and sign the electronic waiver during the Join process and add themselves, along with contact information, as a Non Member to the Free Membership account

**Are there any special activities for 7<sup>th</sup> graders? What can they do at the Y?**

7<sup>th</sup> graders will have access to much of the Y including gyms for basketball/pickleball, swimming pool, designated areas of the fitness center\*, YGTeens Small Group Training, Group Exercise class, Enrichment Activities and Classes

*Some programs require advance registration – Fee-based programs would benefit from the member rate*

\*In order to utilize designated areas of the fitness center, the student must complete a Youth Fitness Orientation – you may sign up for your orientation after activating your membership.