



Norfolk Family YMCA Y-USA & Praesidium Partnership Age Policy Changes

The Norfolk Family YMCA has a long commitment to ensuring the children and youth we serve are safe and protected from abuse. As part of the commitment, we are excited to share that we are in the process of receiving Praesidium Accreditation for our facilities and programs.

Praesidium is a leader in abuse risk management and has worked with over 4,000 organizations globally for 30 years. Praesidium Accreditation is a standardized, consistent, and objective process that allows organizations to publicly demonstrate their commitment to abuse prevention by meeting or exceeding abuse prevention standards.

One accreditation requirement and part of this commitment to create a safe, nurturing environments in which our mission of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility can be accomplished, is an age policy change, effective August 1, 2025.

Effective August 1, youth must be 12 years or older to be in the building without parent/adult supervision at all times through the duration of their visit.

What this change means:

- No child under 12 can be dropped off at our facility to play, swim, or hang out to be picked up later. An adult (ages 16+) must always be with youth (11 and under).
- Youth attempting to check-in or purchase a day pass without an adult (ages 16+) with them, will not be allowed in.
- Youth coming to our facility to participate in Y programming do not need a parent/adult with them at all times during their activity, as program staff will be present. However, they are responsible to drop-off and pick-up at Y program location.
- Youth memberships will now only be available for those ages 12-17. Those younger will have to be on a household membership to ensure an adult member will be with them.
- Our Y Kids Club program is bridging the gap for middle school families who lean on us to provide a place for their child (age 11 or under) after school. We will now have an after-school program onsite at the Y for members and non-members. Enrollment is now available for the 2025/26 school year and weekly registration will be required. More information will be available soon.

We understand this change will impact many families, but we appreciate everyone's cooperation as we continue to move forward in providing a safe environment for our members and guests.