

# Fun Facts

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## YMCA Century of Group Swimming Historical Timeline

- 1885** Brooklyn YMCA built first YMCA swimming pool, then known as “the swimming bath.”
- 1904** First YMCA lifesaving corps was organized at Camp Dudley in upstate New York.
- 1906** Detroit YMCA launched group swimming instruction, a radical departure from the one-on-one instruction common at the time.
- YMCA and Red Cross join together to promote first aid and develop lifesaving corps at the YMCA in Baltimore.
- 1909** The YMCA in Kansas City, Mo., built a pool with roll-out rims and a water recirculation system (filtration system was added in 1910). The new filtration systems created a healthier atmosphere for swimmers and, in turn, made pools more appealing to the public.
- 1910** YMCA Teaching America to Swim campaign was launched, “to teach every boy and young man in North America, who does not know how, to swim.”
- 1912** National YMCA Lifesaving Service organized.
- 1916** Army camps offered swimming instruction using YMCA techniques during World War I.
- 1923** First YMCA swimming championships held at Brooklyn YMCA.
- 1938** New YMCA aquatics program launched. Swimmers at varying abilities identified as Minnows, Fish and Sharks.
- 1959** YMCA Scuba program developed.
- 1964** YMCA launched Springboard Diving programs.
- 1973** YMCA began its first national emphasis on aquatic activities for the disabled.
- 1975** National YMCA Swimming and Diving Championship became the largest swimming championship in the world with more than 1,500 participants; it continues to this day.
- 1982** YMCA launched aquatics programs in partnership with National Physical Fitness through Water Exercise and Arthritis Foundation.
- 1992** YMCA reached milestones: more than 1,700 pools in operation; more than 25,000 lifeguards and instructors trained.
- 1994** On the Guard II: The YMCA Lifeguard Program introduced.
- YMCA Synchronized Swimming and YMCA Wetball (Water Polo) introduced through the cooperation of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing bodies of the sports.
- 1996** YMCA Splash, a community-based learn-to-swim program, is launched to help people of all ages, especially children and families, learn basic swimming skills and water safety practices.
- 2006** The nation’s 2,594 YMCAs celebrate 100 years of group swimming instruction.