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YMCA of Western North Carolina Frequently Asked Questions About the Black Mountain YMCA

Updated Sept. 6, 2018

The YMCA of WNC looks forward to being your neighbor in Black Mountain, and we're glad to answer your questions about the new Y. If you have a question that isn't answered below, [please let us know](#).

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Will it cost more to be a member of the Y?

Not necessarily. If you choose to stay on as a Y member, your current drafted membership rate will be honored until September 2019. However, the Y has several more membership categories than Cheshire Fitness Club, and will work with you to find the right category for your situation.

Will I automatically become a Y member?

Your membership transferred to the Y when the Cheshire Fitness Club closed for business on Sept. 4 at 9:30 p.m. unless you requested otherwise. For those on a monthly draft, the Y will begin drafting your account on your regularly scheduled draft date. Members with an annual or short-term membership will see their membership continue with the YMCA until the end of their prior agreement with Cheshire.

When can I start using the Y?

Starting Sept. 5, we invite you to take full advantage of your Y membership by visiting any of the Y's [seven other area locations](#). Simply stop by the membership desk to review your account, update your photo, and get your new membership card, then start using the Y right away. The Black Mountain YMCA will open for business on Sept. 8.

What does YMCA membership include?

Membership benefits include:

- UNLIMITED access to seven other YMCA facilities in Buncombe, Henderson, and McDowell counties
- [Membership reciprocity](#) at more than 2,000 YMCAs nationwide
- State-of-the-art strength and cardio equipment, plus open gym and swim times
- More than 500 FREE group exercise classes per month
- FREE Coaching Connection consultations with a YMCA wellness coach to create a custom fitness plan that will get you started and keep you on track
- FREE guest passes
- FREE onsite child care while you exercise
- Personal training for individuals or small groups (additional fee applies)
- Savings on programs and youth/adult sports

Can I visit other Ys when I travel?

Yes! Nationwide membership enables you to visit any participating Y in the United

States through membership at your “home” YMCA (the facility that enrolled you as a member and that collects your membership dues). Certain restrictions apply. [Learn more about this member benefit.](#)

How do I make changes to my account?

Starting Sept. 5, please stop by the membership desk at any [YMCA of WNC location](#) to review your account, update your photo, and get your new membership card. The Black Mountain YMCA will open for business on Sept. 8. Due to the timing of the sale we will not be able to make draft changes before Oct. 1, 2018. All draft changes require 30 days’ notice.

Does the Y offer financial assistance?

Yes. The YMCA is committed to helping people reach their full potential through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body. We serve people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and incomes. **It is our belief that no one should be turned away for their inability to pay.** We offer sliding-scale fees designed to fit each individual’s or family’s financial situation. Funding for this program is made possible through the generous support of our donors to our annual campaign.

To learn more about financial assistance and to get an idea of what your rate might be, [use our online rate estimator.](#)

What if I want to cancel my membership?

If you do not wish to maintain your membership after the transition, please contact the YMCA of WNC Business Office at 828 251 5910 by Sept. 10, 2018.

Will my Cheshire Fitness Club guest passes still be valid?

Starting in September 2018, members will have YMCA guest passes, which are unlimited for Y members age 18 and up. Each member may bring one individual or family guest per visit. Guests may only visit the YMCA of Western North Carolina with an existing member for free three times per calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31). Once a guest has used all three free visits, the guest (whether an individual or family), must either join the YMCA or buy a day pass. Day passes are \$15 for an adult, \$30 for a family or household.

Does the Y accept Medicare Advantage plans?

The YMCA of Western North Carolina partners to provide wellness benefits for Medicare Advantage plans through FirstMedicare Direct Healthy State and through plans that include Silver & Fit. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, we will also partner with Optum® Fitness Advantage from UnitedHealthcare®. For Part B subscribers we will also work with a Medicare Supplement through AARP’s BeWell Program. Each of these options provides a YMCA membership. Some Medicare Advantage plans require fees and annual enrollment. Contact your insurance broker for details.

What do you offer for older adults?

Our Healthy Aging programs help older adults stay active, improve health, and maintain community connections. We offer unlimited group exercise and water fitness classes, as well as programs for falls prevention, cancer survivorship, diabetes prevention and management, and arthritis management. Clubs, group outings, and volunteer opportunities are also available. We also offer [chronic care management services](#) as a Medicare provider.

ABOUT THE FACILITY

When will the new Y open?

The Cheshire Fitness Club will close for business at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4. We appreciate your patience while the facility is closed Sept. 5-7 for the Y to take a few days to install new cardio equipment, fixtures, and signage. The building will reopen as the Black Mountain YMCA on Saturday, Sept. 8 at 8 a.m.

Are you changing anything?

Along with installing new cardio equipment, we look forward to continuing to make improvements to the facility. We're starting in mid-September with the transition of the racquetball court into a multipurpose room and larger Youth Development Center. This winter look for the addition of new strength equipment in the Wellness Center. As we develop new programs and make other improvements, we look forward to gaining a clear understanding of the needs of the community.

Does the Y plan to expand the building or add a basketball court?

We look forward to gaining a clear understanding of the needs of the community before making those decisions. The Y is a volunteer-led, nonprofit charitable organization with ample opportunities for community and donor involvement.

Are you closing the pool?

No, but we will be adding lifeguards and more swim lessons.

What are the new hours of operation?

At this time, we do not plan to change the facility hours. However, we're open to hearing from members if their needs are not being met within the current operating hours.

ABOUT STAFFING

Will current Cheshire employees become YMCA employees?

The Y has offered all current part-time Cheshire Fitness Club employees and independent contractors the opportunity to become Y employees.

Is the Y hiring?

Yes! We're hiring at all locations. [See YMCA job openings and apply here](#). (Note: Positions offered to current Cheshire employees and independent contractors are not listed on the public Careers page.)

What benefits does the Y offer staff?

The Y offers staff a chance to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Working for a cause-driven organization means staff can transform the lives of people in their communities.

As part of a global federated movement, the Y of the USA provides staff with numerous resources. Qualified staff are eligible for the Y Retirement Fund, which contributes 12 percent of the employee's gross pay. Additionally, employees can begin making retirement contributions immediately.

The Y offers opportunities for staff training and development. The Y also has career progression ladders to assist staff in career planning. Multiple centers and afterschool and day camp sites, an overnight summer camp, and a robust corporate office offer staff a variety of career advancement opportunities.

Staff receive a national YMCA individual membership, and access to a full range of YMCA activities, classes and programs, many of which are available at a discount.

The YMCA of WNC is a Diversity, Inclusion, and Global (DIG) YMCA committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome and included at the Y.

As part of DIG, the Y has Employee Resource Groups, run by employees, that provide a safe space for staff to have in-depth and authentic conversations.

The Y also provides staff access to a professional Employee Assistance Network for a wide variety of concerns.