YMCA CAMP H.R. ERDMAN 100 YEARS 1926-2026

EARLY 1900

Opening Camp to All

After World War II, the YMCA reimagined Camp H.R. Erdman as a place where youth could grow, lead, and connect. Summer programs flourished, including Summer Fun, which brought children from every YMCA branch to Camp Erdman for immersive weeklong experiences led by branch staff.

June 21, 1955 Campers

Bunk Beds

Buses to Camp

Meal Time

Camp Fire

The beloved Y Raggers Program, originally started in 1914, guided teens through personal reflection and growth, using symbolic colored kerchiefs marking commitments to service, courage, and self-discovery.

University of Hawai`i Y Frosh Camps also became a rite of passage. Starting in 1938, and reaching peak popularity from the 1970s to the 1990s, these camps helped incoming students build friendships and confidence as they transitioned to college life.

In 1967, the YMCA partnered with public schools to launch Camping and Outdoor Education Programs for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Participation surged—from 300 students to nearly 9,500 in just one year—prompting new lodges and cabins.

Specialized camps soon followed, welcoming children who were blind, deaf, diabetic, physically challenged, or otherwise underserved.

The deaf and the blind attend summer camp

Summer Camp for Diabetic Children Opens Next Month

In 2006, with federal support championed by Senator Daniel Inouye, the Alpine Tower Climb and Odyssey high ropes course was constructed—challenging teens to step beyond their comfort zones, build trust, and discover their potential.

the YMCA