



1844

YMCA was founded by George Williams



1844

Reading rooms and refreshment areas help young men to adjust to urban life

1851

YMCA becomes global

1855

Henry Dunant convinced YMCA Paris to organise the first YMCA world conference



1856

Norwich Young Men's Christian Association is founded

1891

The American YMCA invents basketball and goes on to invent volleyball in 1895



1894

On the 50th anniversary of the YMCA, George Williams receives a Knighthood from Queen Victoria

1959

YMCA began youth clubs for personal development

1939

During WW2 the organisation was turned over to accommodating and feeding troops, mobile canteens were provided in rural Norfolk



1916

A YMCA employment department is set up in England to deal with unemployment. It finds jobs for 38,000 ex-servicemen



1914

During the First World War, the YMCA supports the troops

The Red Poppy is introduced by an American YMCA worker and goes on to become a worldwide symbol of remembrance for those lost in the world wars



1908

The YMCA was an early influence on the scouting movement



1962

The first YMCA Summer camps were pioneered in Norwich



1970

YMCA George Williams College is Established in London, providing training programmes for professional youth workers



1970

Emphasis shifts towards supporting young homeless people in Norfolk

1992

Schools programmes help young people with personal and family problems affecting their education

1994

HRH The Prince of Wales visits Norwich following the launch of the pioneering Foyer Concept



2006

Norwich YMCA becomes YMCA Norfolk to reflect the growing work across the county

2007

Innovative Supported Lodgings programme extended across the county

TODAY

YMCA Norfolk provides support and advice for children, young people and their families, as well as accommodation, health and wellbeing activities and training and education opportunities.



Today the YMCA reaches 58 million people in 119 countries worldwide

2016

Expansion of accommodation and support for young people in Kings Lynn

2015

YMCA Norfolk starts new work supporting families to lead more fulfilling lives

2014

HRH The Princess Royal gives the royal seal of approval for YMCA Norfolk's MyPlace move on accommodation



2013

YMCA Norfolk starts providing accommodation for single parent families

2012

Launch of Stepping Stones Café, a training and skills social enterprise

2009

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh opens Norwich Central YMCA at Norwich Bus Station

Make your own timeline of key dates in the history of YMCA

