



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Spirit of Team -Dennis Watson Memorial Grant

What: The YMCA Spirit of TEAM Fund was developed to honor the legacy of former Y board member Dennis Watson who passionately believed in the power of team building.

For over 18 years Dennis served as the lead for the YMCA Middle School Program T.E.A.M devoted to encouraging youth to improve their communication skills, build empathy and stronger relationships, and increase their confidence.

Dennis effectively utilized social emotional learning principles and encouraged young people to consider how the tone and intention of their communication impacted their ability to build a happy, healthy and vibrant community. He believed that young people, if given the opportunity, could play a vital role in making our communities kinder.

The Spirit of Team Award seeks to support youth program leaders, teachers and those who are engaged in developing programs or projects for students.

Who Should Apply: Individuals who have a program or project idea for students that upholds the ideals of the Y and promotes teambuilding, improves positive relationship building and responsible decision making, enhances social skills, or fosters good communication. Applicants are invited to share a current or future project that aligns with the above ideas.

Grant Amount: You may request up to \$1500. Up to 5 grants will be provided. (Grant funds may be used to supplement current work or to help kick-start a new idea.)

Eligibility:

- Projects must benefit students on the Olympic Peninsula with a preference for students in sixth, seventh, and/or eighth grade, and from cities with YMCA facilities (**Sequim, Port Angeles, or Port Townsend**)
- All applicants are required to have a sponsoring organization or school.
- Grant checks are sent to the sponsoring organization or school.
- The sponsoring organization or school will accept the grant funds for the applicant and work with them to utilize the funds.

What types of applications are we looking for? - We are looking for projects that:

- Create a culture of kindness and demonstrate a willingness to promote the YMCA's resources, networks, and core values.
- Encourage collaboration and use teambuilding as a strategy to help young people improve their social skills.
- Creatively address the current social emotional needs of students through project-based activities.

Project Examples:

- A teacher or youth group leader who wants to provide his/her/their students with a teambuilding or communication workshop.
- A group that is organizing a service-learning project centered around building kinder communities.
- A club that wants to run a registration rally for the YMCA 7th Grade Initiative at their school.
- A group that wants to bring a speaker or activity to the community to increase social emotional learning, communication, and collaboration.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

KEY DATES – 2025/2026 Grant and Project Timeline:

October 6th - Grant Applications Open

October 31st by 5PM- Applications Due

Grant Award Notification: Week of November 17th – Funds will be distributed within two weeks of receiving your signed contract.

Projects must be completed no later than **June 2026**

Reports due within 3 weeks of completing your project

YMCA CORE VALUES DEFINED

RESPECT- to treat others as I would want them to treat me, to value the worth of every person, including myself.

RESPONSIBILITY- To do what is right- What I ought to do, to be accountable for my choices of behavior and actions and my promises.

CARING – To demonstrate a sincere concern for others and for their needs and well-being.

HONESTY- To tell the truth and to demonstrate reliability and trustworthiness through actions that are in keeping with my stated position and beliefs.

The Y is a cause for strengthening community. We're here working with you every day, making sure that you have the resources and support you need to learn, grow and thrive. With a focus on developing the potential of kids, improving individual health and well-being, and giving back and supporting our neighbors, you will bring about meaningful change not just within yourself, but in your community too.