the YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Y Readers

YMCA of High Point



Program Overview

The Y Readers Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program provides critical support during the summer months to help students achieve reading proficiency. The program serves students from partnering Title I elementary schools who have scored below grade level on literacy assessments and are recommended by their schools. Participation is offered at no cost to families. The Y prioritizes hiring certified teachers from each partner school to work with students in small groups, ensuring consistency and familiarity. Enrichment activities are thoughtfully integrated into the curriculum to support the whole child. This impactful program is made possible through the generosity of contributors to the Friends of the Y Annual Campaign, as well as support from local corporations and dedicated foundations.

The Y Readers Program has a 25-year history of improving student outcomes through targeted literacy support. Launched in 1999 by the YMCA of Greater Charlotte with just 40 students, the program now serves over 1,400 youth annually. In 2012, Y-USA adopted the model, and it has since expanded nationwide—reaching over 4,500 students through 135 sites operated by 77 YMCA associations. The YMCA of High Point introduced the Y Readers Program in summer 2024, serving 13 students from Oak View Elementary. Building on this momentum, afterschool tutoring was added for 28 students during the 2024–2025 school year. In summer 2025, the program served 52 students from both Oak View Elementary and Fairview Elementary across two sites. For 2026, we plan to serve 75 students at two sites.



"We are thrilled to once again partner with the Y Readers program! This collaboration continues to have a powerful and positive impact on our scholars at Oak View Elementary by helping them build strong literacy skills, boosting their confidence, and fostering a love for reading. Together, we're making a lasting difference in the lives of our young scholars."

-Bennie Bradley, Oak View Elementary Principal



The Need

A lack of academic and enrichment opportunities during summer means that many children experience up to two months of academic learning loss which is particularly detrimental for students who are already academically behind their peers. This is particularly challenging in low-income neighborhoods as many youth lose access to books and enrichment activities causing the "summer slide" over mulitple summers making it even harder to catch up. Third grade reading is a benchmark year and is the best predictor of a child's success in school with 96% of of students who are reading proficiently, graduating high school; whereas, students not reading proficiently are four times more likely to drop out .







Program Components



Welcome, Breakfast & Attendance | Literacy | Lunch | Enrichment | Closing

Literary Instruction

Y Readers provides 5 weeks of literacy instruction focused on the foundational skills that students need to read proficiently. Students participate daily in 3 hours of literacy instruction with small ratios utilizing the Science of Reading curriculum components and pre/post program assessment tools to teach and assess foundational phonics, comprehension and vocabulary skills through interactive reading lessons.

Enrichment Activities

In addition to literacy instruction, enrichment counselors create afternoon summer experiences with active and exciting programs such that students don't miss out on summer fun. Students participate in a variety of activities including character development, physical activity, art, games, music and STEM programs. Weekly activities include swim lessons and field trips that explore parts of our city that most students have previously experienced.

Family Support

The Y believes that parents are a child's most important teachers. Our staff provides families with regular updates on each student's progress, along with training and resources to support learning at home.

Program Outcomes



The Y Readers Program has a 25-year track record of significantly improving reading and literacy that is rooted in consistent data outcomes and local school partnerships. The 2025 program showed positive outcomes for students and families. Overall, the students gained 2.25 months of reading growth over the 5-week program and averaged 360 minutes per student of reading. When many peers lose 2 months of reading growth during the summer, these results reflect a positive swing in reading over the summer.

In addition, during 2025 students had 88% attendance at the Hartley site and incurred 0 discipline issues. Families benefited from students receiving free breakfast, lunch and weekend meals and over 1,200 books were distributed for at-home libraries. Some of the greatest impact was less quantifiable that included students' excitement for learning, exposure to new adventures, and pride in their accomplishments.



Additional Support Needed

The YMCA is slated to expand from 52 students in 2025 to 75 students at two sites in 2026 due to the support of local foundations; however, the program is not fully funded.

Please consider your ability to support children in our High Point community with your contribution in one of the below manners.



Become a sponsor or donor.
Donations of all levels are needed and sponsors can be recognized in a variety of ways. See hpymca.org/YReaders for more information or contact Mary Ann Edwards at medwards@hpymca.org.

Volunteer to read with the students during the program. Contact Mary Quinn at mquinn@hpymca.org or get info at hpymca.org/YReaders.

Donate books or supplies. Give a child a book and they are on the road to success. Contact Mary Quinn at mquinn@hpymca.org to donate books or see our Amazon wish list at hpymca.org/YReaders.

Pray for the students and teachers of Y Readers and the success of the program in impacting these young scholars.

Special Thank You!

The YMCA of High Point is grateful to our funding foundations for their partnership in growing the 2026 Summer Y Readers Program.

THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY HIGH POINT
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High Point Medical Society