

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50960-LG-274A (06/24)

Sponsors: Representative Underhill.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH
2 ANNIVERSARY OF YMCA CAMPING.

3 Whereas, founded in London, England in 1844, the YMCA's mission is to put
4 Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for
5 all; and

6 Whereas, at the heart of community life across America, mission-driven YMCAs
7 are a place to belong and to live the values that guide and unite its members with caring,
8 honesty, respect, and responsibility; and

9 Whereas, in 1867, the YMCA became involved in camping, when a Vermont youth
10 director took a group of teens to Lake Champlain in New York for summer encampment; and

11 Whereas, by 1882, enough YMCAs were holding youth and adult camping that the
12 activity was included in national records as "outings and excursions"; and

13 Whereas, Sumner Dudley, a volunteer with New York and New Jersey YMCAs, is
14 credited with starting the first continuously used camp to help build character in young men; in
15 1885, he took seven teenagers for a week's encampment at Orange Lake, New York; and

16 Whereas, the first YMCA camps were small, consisting of a cluster of tents, lined
17 up near a lake, a continuous fire and a flagpole; led by a YMCA director and aided by
18 volunteer male leaders, the camps were regimented programs that included training the boys in
19 character, good health habits, and respect for each other; and

20 Whereas, over the years, as more YMCAs believed the camping experience
21 nurtured young people's values and leadership skills, camps would expand and change to serve
22 males and females of many ages, abilities, and incomes; and

23 Whereas, by 1905, the number of YMCA campers had grown to 6,348 in 187
24 YMCA camps; in 1910, YMCA leaders helped create the American Camping Association
25 (ACA) with YMCA camp director Charles Scott as its first president; and

26 Whereas, as society evolved, YMCA camps branched out; in the early 1900s,
27 Columbus, Ohio's Camp Wilson offered a Fitness Week for men; Cleveland had an excursion
28 camp, teaching history while leading trips through Ohio in covered wagons; by 1938, the
29 Wilshire-Beverly YMCA in Los Angeles reported 191 coeds in its winter camp; and

30 Whereas, the most significant development since the start of the YMCA camping
31 came in 1932; when day camps began to nurture the same character-building skills in kids that
32 resident camps did; by the mid-1900s, camp leaders were encouraging campers to help make
33 program decisions and set and reach individual goals; and

34 Whereas, today, YMCA camps spread from the shore of Maine to the peaks of the
35 Colorado Rockies to the northwest branches of Hawaii; more than 335 residents camps and
36 nearly 2,000 day camps serve more than 800,000 kids and adults every summer; each year an



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1 additional 1.5 million people participate in camp programs through YMCA family camps,
2 weekend retreats, outdoor education, and school camping; and

3 Whereas, in addition, the YMCA employs over 61,000 college-aged young adults as
4 summer resident camp leaders each year providing exceptional leadership development
5 experiences; and

6 Whereas, day and resident camping are the cornerstone of YMCA programs,
7 building character and memories in such effective ways that key YMCA volunteers and donors
8 often point back to their YMCA camp experiences as their primary emotional tie to the YMCA
9 today; and

10 Whereas, camp is not only about the fun activities, but also about the chance for
11 children to develop and learn new skills, enjoy nature, handle new responsibilities, experience
12 independence, make new friends, and build memories that last a lifetime; and

13 Whereas, the YMCA camping programs have greatly enriched the quality of life of
14 the citizens of the State of North Carolina by making available the opportunity to enjoy
15 exceptional recreational facilities, including the following resident camps:

16 Blue Ridge Assembly YMCA Retreat Center, Black Mountain, NC

17 Camp Cheerio, Glade Valley, NC

18 Camp Greenville, Cedar Mountain, NC

19 Camp Hanes YMCA, King, NC

20 Camp Harrison at Herring Ridge, Boomer, NC

21 Camp Kanata, Wake Forest, NC

22 Camp Sea Gull YMCA, Arapahoe, NC

23 Camp Seafarer YMCA, Arapahoe, NC

24 Camp Weaver, Greensboro, NC

25 Camp Thunderbird (Charlotte YMCA), Lake Wylie, SC.; and

26 Whereas, the 125th anniversary of YMCA camping is worthy of recognition and
27 celebration; Now, therefore,

28 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

29 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the YMCA for
30 providing outstanding resident camps for the youth in this State and congratulates the
31 organization on 125 years of YMCA camping.

32 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of those who helped to
33 establish YMCA camps in North Carolina, including Wyatt Taylor, founder of Camp Sea Gull
34 and Camp Seafarer.

35 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy to each of the
36 resident camps located in North Carolina.

37 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.