YMCA BLUE RIDGE ASSEMBLY
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC

WHO WE ARE

Mission, Vision and Purpose

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a **healthy spirit, mind and body for all.** To be a premier destination for **developing, empowering, and inspiring values-based leaders** to strengthen the foundations of their community. To provide a platform, within a majestic environment, where lives are **positively impacted for a lifetime, leaders are developed, and families are strengthened**. We are a much-needed resource for schools, nonprofits, churches and YMCAs throughout North Carolina, the southeast and beyond.

Social Impact

As a leadership and training center, YMCA Blue Ridge strives to **ENGAGE** young people with important issues of the day, **EQUIP** them with leadership skills and **ENCOURAGE** authentic spirituality. We prioritize:

- Feeling loved and accepted
- Understanding who God called you to be
- Growing resilience, confidence and independence
- Making life-long friends
- Learning from those different from you
- Spending time in nature
- Mentoring youth
- Building leaders
- Getting young people outdoors and active
- Fostering teamwork
- Serving your community
- Admiring God's creation

Christian Emphasis

- Bringing young people together in a place filled with the **beauty of God's creation**. Value dignity in labor, intellectually respectable study of religion and **making faith an integral part of life**.
- Serving all following Christ's example and strive to make everyone feel the **love of God through us and our hospitality.**
- **Prioritizing creating community**, fighting against the epidemic of loneliness through cultivation of authentic relationships. We help Christian youth understand the importance of fellowship with other believers.
- Supporting a program which provides leaders throughout the YMCA with new insight and meaning into their spiritual lives and what it means to **integrate faith with life, leadership and work**.

Historical Significance

As one of only three YMCA Assemblies in the United States, Blue Ridge Assembly has been serving its community for 118 years.

- Member of the **National Register of Historic Places** with a national significance designation
- Participant in the overall YMCA movement which dates to **1851 in America**, training YMCA leaders and supporting important teen programs like Youth In Government, Leaders' Club, Y Achievers, and Christian Values
- Contributor to a decade (1920s) of rapid growth and prosperity in history of Buncombe County, NC
- Partner with Fellowship of Christian Athletes for over 50 years, initiated by Reverend Billy Graham

Dr. Willis Weatherford founded YMCA Blue Ridge to bring together young people to discuss the ideas of the day. It was and is still an active participant in serving societal needs.

- First conference was the YWCA, attended by 1000 women, with a strong focus on **women's suffrage**
- Early role in **discussing race relations in the south and easing racial tension**
- Training center for WWI workers and part of the overall YMCA war fundraising effort
- Conferences on industry started in 1919 and continuing for almost a century, for top business leaders to learn and focus on social, economic issues and the effects on business
- Quarantine area for homeless, indigent, and first responders during the COVID pandemic
- Home for two colleges in the 1920s and 30s- **YMCA Graduate School and Black Mountain College**

Economic Impact

YMCA Blue Ridge brings almost 30,000 visitors to the area every year, providing economic benefit to Black Mountain, Buncombe County and the greater WNC region.

- Generate approximately **$7.5 million dollars in economic impact annually**
- Provide more than **$400,000 in aid offered every year to those who could otherwise not afford to participate in programs.**
- Teens return to their communities throughout NC as **better leaders and community members**
- Local schools receive **outdoor education** at a reduced cost- usually $20 per student for a full day of programming

North Carolina and WNC Partnerships

- US Forest Service Hotshot Fire Fighters
- NC Fire Department Swift Water Team
- NC State Trooper Patrol School
- Buncombe County Isolation & Quarantine during COVID
- School location during COVID
- Lifeline Screening
- Town of Black Mountain
- Buncombe County School Administrators
- Leadership Asheville

Non-Profit Organization

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly is an IRS-approved 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
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Contact

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