

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; this year, the YMCA is celebrating its 175th anniversary, including more than 165 years in Wisconsin, with the first YMCA in the state opening its doors in Milwaukee in 1858; and

WHEREAS; the YMCA is a trusted community partner that strengthens kids, families, and communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility programs; and

WHEREAS; the YMCA has played a significant role in American life, including providing safe housing during the Industrial Revolution, pioneering the first night school and English as a Second Language classes, inventing the game of basketball, delivering the first group swim lessons, leading humanitarian efforts during wartime, including the work of YMCA leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner John R. Mott, establishing the Youth and Government civic engagement program, and more, impacting the fabric of the nation through times of immense change, joy, and hardship; and

WHEREAS; nationally, the YMCA remains one of the largest and most impactful charitable nonprofits in the country, with 2,600 YMCA Associations serving more than 10,000 communities, employing more than 300,000 staff and hundreds of thousands of volunteers, and providing programs that engage more than 17 million people annually, including millions of kids and youth, and serves as the nation's largest child care provider; and

WHEREAS; in Wisconsin, YMCAs continue to provide essential programs that strengthen families and support health and well-being by creating connected communities and supporting long-term health outcomes, including swim lessons and youth water safety, camping and youth development programs, meal programs, and lifestyle health and fitness programs that support participants of all ages; and

WHEREAS; the Upper Midwest Alliance represents more than 30 YMCAs across Wisconsin, and together with dedicated leaders, staff, and volunteers, Wisconsin YMCAs connect young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life experiences, greatly influencing participants' confidence, ability to develop a positive network, and participation in community service while building a healthier spirit, mind, and body; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin recognizes and joins the Upper Midwest Alliance in celebrating the YMCA's 175th anniversary and its enduring contributions to communities across Wisconsin and the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 2026 as

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 8th day
of July 2026.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State