DETERMINE CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP

Circles are usually made up of 7 to 10 adult–child pairs. YMCAs use various methods for breaking new membership into Circles, including the following:
• **By gender.** Boys and girls develop differently during the early elementary years. Boys need time to be boys and girls need time to be girls.
• **By neighborhood or other common bonds.** Some members prefer to be in a Circle with others from their neighborhood (or their place of work or worship).
• **By meeting night.** Because families are often busy, members may prefer a Circle that meets on a given night of the week.
• **By age.** Grouping children together by age or grade allows activities to focus on age-appropriate needs and interests.

FILL CIRCLE LEADERSHIP

Typically, parents or caregivers in the Circle are appointed or elected to leadership roles, while their child contributes in a junior role (e.g., Junior Treasure Keeper) when he or she is ready.
• **Navigator.** The Navigator acts as the leader and representative for the Circle and represents the Circle at the Expedition meeting.
• **Compass Bearer.** The Compass Bearer takes on the duties of the Navigator when the Navigator is absent. He or she attends Expedition meetings and usually becomes the next Navigator.
• **Treasure Keeper.** The Treasure Keeper looks after all Circle property, Expedition awards, and other materials.
• **Log Keeper.** The Log Keeper keeps Circle records and rosters and conducts roll call at meetings. He or she submits reports to the Y regarding Circle adventures and accomplishments, conducts the annual Circle evaluation, and is responsible for communication.
• **Elder.** An Elder is usually a past Navigator or other member of long standing. Elders usually help new Circles get going and sometimes serve as Expedition officers or leaders.

SELECT CIRCLE NAME

Consider the following when choosing a Circle name:
• **Give the name meaning.** Consider brainstorming to get a list of values important to your group.
• **Give the name a link.** Consider linking your Circle’s name to your town, neighborhood, street, or school, or perhaps to a geographic feature in your area.
• **Make it unique.** Don’t copy or imitate the name of others, either from the past or present.
• **Build your name on a program theme.** Many Expeditions adopt a thematic name that Circle names can then follow.
• **Make it last.** Choose a name that will stand the test of time.

SELECT MEMBER NICKNAMES

Member nicknames should say something about the individual, what he or she likes or considers important. If possible, connect nicknames to the Circle name.

CREATE A CHEER OR JINGLE

Some Expeditions and Circles like to make up a cheer or jingle to use in a question–answer greeting. Be creative, but check with your YMCA. Traditional greetings might already be in use within your Expedition.

SECURE OR MAKE CIRCLE PROPERTY

Circle property plays a part in Circle meeting rituals and helps create a sense of Circle ownership. Basic Circle property might include the following:
• Nameplates worn as necklaces
• Circle candle
• Talking stick
• Circle drum
• Circle banner

ESTABLISH CIRCLE ATTIRE

Typical Adventure Guides program attire might include a program vest or hat. Vests are an important part of the program because they give members a place to display program patches. The number of patches varies from Y to Y, but typically includes the following:
• Adventure Guides patch
• Event patches (campout, service, adventures)
• Circle leadership patches (for both parent and child)
• Awards or other occasions when recognition is appropriate