

Mission of the Young Marines Program

The Young Marines Program educates and inspires the youth within our communities by promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle through instructional and adventurous activities. We develop responsible citizens, using the volunteer resources of a civilian and military partnership. The teamwork and esprit-de-corps enjoyed by the Young Marines help them discover the hero within.

History Timeline

1958 - A group of dedicated Marine Corps League members formed the Young Marines of Waterbury, Connecticut.

1960 - The original Waterbury unit had swelled from just a handful of boys to a first class youth program membering in excess of 300 youths.

1975 - The program guidelines were changed to allow females to participate so that all youth could benefit.

1980 - The Young Marines were granted the status of a youth educational organization.

1993 - The U.S. Marine Corps officially recognized the Young Marines as the focal organization for their contribution to Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

1995 - The Young Marine organized went international with the forming of units in Okinawa, Japan.

2000 - Currently, there are over 200 Young Marine units. Nationwide there are over 14,000 Young Marines and 2200 adult volunteer staff members. There are 4 international units in Okinawa, Japan.