



135 COMMUNITY TEAM MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

▶ JULY: Mission & Recon (Spaces)

In July, the Community Team went scouting. The ask, called "Mission Y Recon," sent 33 members to tour YMCAs that are not ours, by virtual tour and in person, and report back on what those buildings do well. The goal was to see how other Ys use their space as we plan for improvements in Janesville and Milton locations.

WHAT THE TEAM REVIEWED

Members reviewed three featured Ys by virtual tour:

1. Southern Saratoga YMCA
2. West Side YMCA
3. J.M. Tull-Gwinnett Family YMCA

In addition, members toured the Watertown YMCA and the Stateline YMCA (Beloit) in person, and looked at Ys in Georgia, Rochester, Sparta, Tennessee, and Sturgeon Bay.



"Looking at the other Y's was a great exercise, it definitely shows what our Y could be." — Jared Hergert, Community Team Member

"These facilities seem cohesive, like the spaces were intentionally planned with the end user in mind." — Jill Conlin, Community Team Member

"Each facility appeared to have welcoming entrances with opportunities to meet diverse family needs." — Alisa Arndt, Community Team Member

33 Team Members Weighed In
75% Rated Their Visit Very Good or Excellent
64% Shared Their Ask Experience With Others

*This summary draws from 33 Community Team Hub form submissions collected July 13 – 31, 2026. These conversations are meant to surface directional themes to watch, not a statistically representative survey.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. At these Ys, water is the anchor.

Pools drew more comments than any other facility feature, from 17 of the 33 members. Indoor and outdoor pools, lap lanes and aquatic classes called specific attention and opportunity.

2. These buildings tell you where you are.

Members came back talking about ease and accessibility in wayfinding. Many cited the color-coded hallways and zones at Southern Saratoga, where the wall colors tell you where you are. Others noted stairs, wide doors, elevators and distance to wings of other areas throughout the Ys. Ys built on a single level read as open to everyone, while the older multi-floor buildings read as a lack of access and confusing design.

3. These Ys do far more than fitness.

Teaching kitchens. Classrooms. Multiuse rooms that shift from a workshop to a birthday party and back. Members noted cooking and nutrition space, most of it at Southern Saratoga, and pointed to rooms built to do more than one job. Across the tours, these looked less like fitness centers and more like community living rooms.



We encourage you to share your 135 ask experiences through everyday conversations. JOIN ANYTIME. Invite your friends, family, and coworkers to learn more: ymcanrc.org/135years.