



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
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For Immediate Release

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## Tampa YMCA Offers Free Safety Around Water Lessons

**Tampa, FL (Feb. 20, 2017)** – To continue to help prevent childhood drowning, the [Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA](#) is offering free [Safety Around Water](#) lessons to children **March 13-16** to coincide with Hillsborough County Public Schools spring break. This annual program comes on the heels of new data showing the drowning rate among children in Hillsborough County, ages 0-6, was reduced by 50 percent in 2016. This reduction in childhood drowning is encouraging news to local agencies, including the Tampa YMCA and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, collaborating to help eliminate drowning cases among local youth.

"Seventy-one percent of the world is water and kids are 100 percent curious," says Association Aquatics Experience Executive Amanda Walker. "The Tampa YMCA believes a child's safety in and around water should never be left to chance. We're committed to providing the free Safety Around Water program annually in the spring to help keep kids stay safe at the beach, pool, lake and while boating."

Safety Around Water will be open to beginners and non-swimmers, ages 3-12 years. During the free 4-day course, certified instructors teach children a sequenced set of skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and give them confidence in and around water. YMCA membership is NOT required; however, pre-registration is required due to limited space. Participants must be present on the first day of class and bring their own swimsuit and towel. **Classes take place Monday, March 13 - Thursday, March 16.** Times vary based on YMCA location. For more information, [click here](#) or contact the following participating YMCAs to pre-register:

**[Bob Gilbertson Central City Family YMCA](#)**

110 East Palm Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33602  
813.229.9622

**[East Pasco Family YMCA](#)**

37301 Chapel Hill Loop  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
813.780.9622

**[Northwest Hills. Family YMCA](#)**

8950 W. Waters Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33615  
813.249.8510

**[Bob Sierra YMCA Youth & Family Center](#)**

4015 Ragg Rd.  
Tampa, FL 33624  
813.962.3220

**[New Tampa Family YMCA](#)**

16221 Compton Dr., Tampa, FL 33647  
813.866.9622

**[Plant City Family YMCA](#)**

1507 YMCA Pl., Plant City, FL 33563  
813.757.6677

**[Campo Family YMCA](#)**

3414 Culbreath Rd., Valrico, FL 33596  
813.684.1371

**[North Brandon Family YMCA](#)**

3097 S. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584  
813.685.5402

**[South Tampa Family YMCA](#)**

4411 S. Himes Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33611  
813.839.0210

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**About the Tampa Y**

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#), strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities for 128 years, through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 18 facilities engage more than 150,000 men, women and children — regardless of age, income or background — to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve our community's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Tampa Y has

long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.  
[www.tampaymca.org](http://www.tampaymca.org)