



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Engineering and Support
Center, Huntsville



ARMY STANDARD for YOUTH CENTERS

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH (AGES 11 – 15)
AND TEENS (AGES 16 – 18)

SMALL	60 - 90 CAPACITY
MEDIUM	105 - 135 CAPACITY
LARGE	150 - 180 CAPACITY

ARMY CHILD YOUTH & SCHOOL (CYS) SERVICES FACILITY DESIGN

CATEGORY CODE: 74066

Prepared by:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center

300 SECURED GATEWAY
REDSTONE ARSENAL
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35808

SEPTEMBER 2024



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-9
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

DAIN-ZA (420-1nn1)

3 May 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Standards for Youth Centers (YC) (Facility Category Code 74066)

1. References. AR 420-1, 24 August 2012, Army Facilities Management.
2. The enclosed Army Standard for design and construction of Youth Centers is hereby approved for implementation. The standard applies to all Army Youth Centers. This standard supersedes the Army Standard dated 12 MAR 2008. The AFSC must approve any planned deviation from the Army Standards. Only the HQDA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 has authority to approve exceptions to this standard. Waivers from the Army Standard must be approved in accordance with AR 420-1.
3. The standard is mandatory for all Youth Center Military Construction, Army (MCA) projects for FY25 and beyond. The new Army Standards provide criteria and guidance for the planning, programming, design, and construction of a Youth Center. These standards combined with the Standard Room-by-Room Design Criteria and the Standard Drawings provide the functional relationships needed to design the Youth Center facility and the associated outdoor activity area.
4. The co-chairs for the Facility Design Team (FDT) for Youth Centers are Ms. Kristy Trahan, DAIN-PRY, kristy.b.trahan.civ@army.mil; and Ms. Dawn Thompson, DAIN-PRY, dawn.c.thompson.civ@army.mil. The FDT POC at HQ USACE is Ms. Susan Nachtigall, CEHQ, susan.d.nachtigall@usace.army.mil. The USACE Center of Standardization POC is Ms. Michael Johnson, CEHNC-EDC, 256-895-1409, michael.r.johnson2@usace.army.mil.

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KEVIN VEREEN
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9

DAIN-ZA

SUBJECT: Army Standards for School Age Care Facilities (Child Development Centers) (Facility Category Code 74016)

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THE ARMY STANDARD FOR YOUTH CENTERS (FOR YOUTH 11-18 YEARS)

Description:

Youth Centers (YC) are designed primarily for use by middle school youth (ages 11-15) and teens (ages 16-18). These facilities provide physical and psychological safety, supervision, healthy environments, supportive relationships, opportunities to belong, positive social norms, opportunities for skill building, and promote resilience, within age-appropriate activities for youth and teens. The YC further supports opportunities for youth and teens to develop their physical, educational, social, recreational, and emotional needs. The Army Standards for YCs are based on Army Baseline Standards and Department of Defense requirements for certification.

The standards support Army Youth programming:

- Education and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Leadership and Service
- Health and Wellness
- The Arts
- Recreation, Sports & Fitness

Applicability:

- The Army Standard applies to Army facilities worldwide.
- All geographic districts shall incorporate the mandatory design criteria described herein in close coordination with the USACE designated Center of Standardization (COS) for Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services.
- Army Standard Criteria or building blocks contained herein must be used to the maximum extent (including renovation or modernization projects) to maximize the benefits of the Army Facilities Standardization Program and preclude the need to develop separate Army standards and criteria.
- Youth Center projects should be reviewed by the COS and Army Materiel Command (AMC) to ensure conformance with the Army Standard.
- The primary source for determining authorized allowances is the Real Property Planning and Analysis System (RPLANS).

Waivers:

- Only the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (ODCS, G-9) Installations has the authority to approve exceptions to the Army Standard.
- Approval for exceptions and waivers from Army Standards is initiated by the installation and must be requested in accordance with the AR 420-1, Appendix G, latest edition.
- Deviations based on gaps or shortfalls in addressing either doctrinal, functional, operational, or readiness requirements shall be forwarded through the Army chain of command to the Army Staff, HQDA (ARSTAF) Functional Proponent (ODCS G-9) prior to submission as an Army Standard waiver request to expedite the review process.
- All waiver request to the Army Standard requires YC, Center of Standardization (COS) conflict resolution prior to submission by the Garrison Commander.
- As the proponent, the ODCS, G-9 must validate and approve the request.
- Garrison Army Standard waiver request submissions must be received in sufficient time to allow the YC Facility Design Team (FDT) to complete review and development of recommendations or courses of action for the Army Facilities Standardization Committee (AFSC) to consider prior to

- implementation into project design.
- All approved waivers must be documented in installation master plans thereby serving as the installation's modified standards.

The Guidance Section, following the Mandatory Criteria table, provides instructions and definitions necessary for the application of the mandatory requirements contained in the tabular section of the Army Standard. As such, use the guidance in conjunction with the Army Standard Mandatory Criteria to ensure the intent and embedded functionality contained herein will meet the Army's mandatory requirements set forth by this standard.

Planning Criteria

Army Standards are not intended to provide broader design criteria such as space allocation, functional layouts, or basic layouts more appropriately contained in the supporting and conforming Standard Design/Criteria. Nor are they intended to rigidly define collective facility authorizations more appropriately adjudicated by the Army Requirements Group.

This Army Standard, associated Standard Designs, and approved Army space design criteria are applied together in an iterative and co-dependent way to provide a standardized but adaptable approach to facility standardization. Each serves a different purpose to ensure mandatory functions and operability are provided uniformly and at the right size. The primary source for determining authorized allowances, in every instance, is the RPLANS which incorporates current criteria approved by the Army Requirements Group.

THE ARMY STANDARD FOR YOUTH CENTERS (For Middle School Youth (Ages 11-15) and Teens (Ages 16-18))

Item	Mandatory Criteria
Lobby/Central Counter/Reception Desk	Must have a lobby which contains a central counter for clerk to view/observe the flow of youth, parents, and visitors. The configuration and functional relationship between the main entry and the central counter/reception desk must be maintained. Reception counter to be two tiered with no sharp edges and meet ABA. Provide communication and data connectivity to include access control, duress alarm and central intercom system.
Director's Office	Must be in proximity to the central counter/reception desk and must be directly accessible from the waiting area. Provide communication and data connectivity.
Administrative Office Space	Administrative office space, except for the Sports and Fitness Director office is to be in proximity to the Director's office and in the vicinity of the facility entry. Provide communication and data connectivity.
Copy File Room	This room to be within the administrative area. The room houses copy machines, printers (other than those dedicated to specific individuals), filing cabinets and storage for general office supplies. Provide a Public Address System (PAS). Provide adequate electrical and LAN drops.

Staff Lounge/Training Room	Must be provided in all YC facilities and located in the administrative portion of the facility. Provide a solid surface countertop with backsplash and single compartment sink/faucet. Provide GFCI electrical outlets above the counter for microwave and other appliances. Provide space for refrigerator and vending machine along with electrical outlets and a water line to support ice making capability in freezer. Must provide space for staff to secure belongings (e.g., individual lockers secured to the wall). Provide communication and data connectivity to include a cable tv outlet.
Staff/Visitor Toilets	Must have ABA compliant public toilet(s) in the entry/lobby of the facility for use by parents, visitors, and staff. Toilet(s) must be separate from those used by youth. Provide one (1) toilet for every 15 full time/full-time equivalent staff on duty at any one given time. Provide grab bars as required.
Technology Lab	Must have technology lab strategically located near the entry area. This space must accommodate computer devices for youth with LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall. The technology lab is a functional and programming requirement in all YCs. Minimum of 525 square foot area for 15 youth (35 sq ft per youth). For the small facility, this area dual functions as a technology Lab and Homework Center. Non-static, fire resistant, carpet is required for this area.
Homework Center	Must provide a self-contained area adjacent to the Technology Lab in all Youth facilities except for in the 60-90 capacity YC. In the small YC, the Homework Center will be incorporated within the Technology Lab. Provide for a minimum of 525 square foot area for 15 youth (35 sq. ft./youth). Provide LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall.
Activity Room(s) - General and Specific	There are two categories of activity rooms: General and Special. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Activity Rooms for gatherings, club meetings, arts & crafts (with the addition of a sink to include a plaster trap), or for other general uses. For these types of activities, room to accommodate up to 30 youth. • Special Activity Rooms allow for a variety of indoor activities. Room to afford flexibility in use and designed for more active functions such as dance, yoga, or martial arts. This room is not intended to accommodate team sports. For these types of activities, room to accommodate up to 15 youth. Provide LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall for both room types.

Commons/Gathering Area	<p>This area is the heart of the program area and a prime gathering place for youth. Space to accommodate 15 youth and depending on the size of the youth center the facility shall have as few as 1 (for the small facility) and as many as 2 (for the medium and large facility). One of the commons areas must be adjacent to the snack bar/culinary arts learning center. Provide a partial curved wall indicating a distinction between Commons and Lobby. On Commons area side of wall provide a counter with LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall to support computer devices. Each commons area to be sized a minimum of 675 sq ft. Provide an additional 2 feet of space along circulation routes for locations of moveable cabinets to hold program equipment. A commons area may be used for table games such as pool, ping pong, foosball, or air hockey or as a place for youth to gather in a comfortable setting promoting socialization. Install four recessed duplex electrical floor outlets in each common area for electronic table games such as air hockey.</p> <p>Provide an area for a portable platform in the main commons area adjacent to the snack bar. Include vision windows in the wall between the commons area and the multi-purpose room to provide full unobstructed view for youth of activities in the multi-purpose room. Vision windows to be at different heights above the finished floor to enable children of various heights the opportunity to view what is happening. Size and material of vision windows to meet fire requirements. The commons area must be provided with diffused or indirect natural lighting to the maximum extent possible. Skylights are not an acceptable means of meeting the natural lighting requirement. Ceiling to be no lower than 15 ft in the main commons area. Provide sound absorbing materials (e.g., noise panels) in this area to prevent echoing and to reduce the noise level.</p>
Snack Bar/Culinary Arts Area	<p>Snack Bar equipment to be NSF commercial grade approved equipment. Culinary Arts area to emulate a "home-type" kitchen environment - equipment or this area to be approved by Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Counters to be made of a solid surface polymer, such as "Corian". Both counters to enable youth to sit on stools looking into this area to view staff preparing snacks and participate in cooking activities (Health and Wellness). One section of the counter to include a cook top with a sink at the end of the counter to enable youth to wash hands before eating or learning how to prepare food items. Provide for a minimum of 3 duplex outlets underneath the 36" high counter to plug in small appliances such as mixer, blender, etc. The counter on the opposite side, which is to be used for serving snacks, should be raised to 42" high with overhang for knee clearance. Cabinets should be constructed of high end/quality plywood and finished with plastic laminate. Particle board is not acceptable. Must provide a dry storage area to store food items not refrigerated. Floor drain must be provided.</p> <p>Provide space for 2 vending machines and electrical outlets to support in proximity to the snack bar area.</p> <p>Preference for dumpster location is in proximity to the Snack Bar/Culinary Arts Area. Dumpster is not to be placed in front of the facility.</p>

Multi-Purpose Room	<p>Must include a multi-purpose room (High school full basketball court size to include accommodations for bleachers) with an electrically operated drop divider curtain. Ceiling to be minimum clear height as appropriate for high school basketball (24 ft. Minimum clear). Built-in retractable bleachers, to be lightweight aluminum on one side of the multi-purpose room. Provide removable wall padding (mats) for the entire wall space in the multipurpose room to serve as protection for youth, acoustical attenuation, and reduce maintenance to the walls. Removable mats to serve and dual function as use for gymnastics. Provide variable lighting in this area to support various activities taking place in this space (e.g., sports events and dances). Protective mesh covers will be installed for all external fixtures. Two (2) basketball goals (shatter proof and breakaway) are to be provided for full-court play. Four (4) basketball goals (adjustable height/electrical with manual override/and fold against the wall) are to be provided for half-court play.</p> <p>Athletic flooring must be multipurpose and resilient to wear to allow for multiple activities to take place (e.g., rollerblading, basketball, volleyball, etc.). Wood flooring is not acceptable. Must provide markings for basketball full court and 2x half court and volleyball. Install flush receptacles or insertion of volleyball stanchions with covers when not in use.</p> <p>Accommodate for electric score boards and plug in of portable radios, etc. Each end of court will be prewired for dual scoreboard installation (that can be used independently for cross court games) and drops for score cable usage.</p> <p>Provide reinforced facility walls to support contractor furnished contractor installed climbing wall. The climbing wall shall comply with the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) ANSI/ACCT 03-2016, or most recent version.</p> <p>Two (2) public toilets accessible off the corridor from the multi-purpose room to the outside are required. Provide a wall mounted fold out diaper changing table in each toilet.</p>
Storage Rooms	<p>Large storage and issue rooms adjacent to the multi-purpose room accessible from the interior. Storage is for programming supplies and equipment, as well as storage for large pieces of sports & fitness equipment, bats, balls, roller skates, etc. Provide a mezzanine above one of the storage areas for uniforms storage to be accessed by the CYS Services Sports & Fitness staff.</p>
Sports Director's Office	<p>Must provide office space for the Sports Director to be near the multi-purpose and laundry room. Provide communication and data connectivity.</p>
Laundry Room	<p>Must provide space for washers(s) and dryer(s) for laundering sports uniforms and other items associated with the operation of a youth center. Provide plumbing for laundry tub, sink and washers. Provide for a laundry tub and floor drain to prevent sewer gases from filtering into the facility. Provide counter for folding clothes with upper and lower cabinets for storage of laundry materials. Laundry room to be secured with locking mechanism.</p>

Teen Room/Lounge	<p>When a teen room/lounge is provided, it is to be located so that access can be monitored by the central check-in counter. This space provides older teens (16-18 years of age) with their own space to socialize and have access to more independent activities like computers, college preparation, and watching television in a home like environment.</p> <p>Provide data connectivity.</p> <p>Allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen room for 15 = 6 LAN drops • Teen room for 30 = 12 LAN drops
Patio	Provide a covered patio to be accessible off the Snack Bar/Culinary Arts area.
Toilet Areas for Youth	<p>Plumbing pairs will be provided one per 18 youth.</p> <p>Two Unisex toilet rooms near the reception area with an over-head light that activates when occupied are required. Unisex toilet rooms will be ABA compliant with one sink, and one toilet. Provide grab bars as required.</p> <p>Separate male and female toilet areas for youth in the program are required. Where multiple toilet stalls are provided in the male restroom, one urinal may be substituted for a toilet. Provide grab bars as required.</p> <p>In the Multi-purpose room corridor, the required toilet areas must have a minimum total of four plumbing pairs. Toilet area(s) must be ABA compliant and have a fold-down diaper changing table. Provide grab bars as required.</p>
Janitorial Closet	Janitorial closet is required adjacent to the unisex toilet rooms. Closet to be equipped with a low floor sink (mop basin), a place to store janitor's equipment and cleaning supplies, and a rack to promote hanging/air drying of mops. Door must have a locking mechanism and be designed to swing out into the corridor 180 degrees to ease emergency egress.
Vision Panels	<p>All doors, except toilets, must have a vision panel. Vision panels in doors to be a minimum of half-height glass. Additionally, activity room doors, administrative office doors and corridor doors leading to the outside shall be provided with a 12" wide sidelite. Vision panels are interior windows where the actual glass is to extend from no more than 51" (AFF) to the height of the top of the door.</p> <p>Tempered safety glass shall be utilized.</p>
Intercom System	Must have a two-way intercom system capable of allowing program staff to communicate with the main reception desk and other areas of the building. Main reception desk to have capability to contact all rooms except for the mechanical, communication, electrical, storage and camera equipment room. System to enable front desk staff to contact rooms individually or all rooms simultaneously. Provide each outdoor activity area with a weather-proof intercom unit.
Public Address System (PAS)	Must have a PAS throughout the facility for indoor and outdoor notifications.
Video Monitoring System/Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	A separate room or area will be provided to store the equipment racks for the video monitor security system. Special consideration for heat build-up is required.

Commercial Enterprise Network (CEN)/Internet	<p>Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity to the CEN will be provided by a commercial carrier.</p> <p>At a minimum a pair of single mode fiber optic cables between the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and the facility is required. This requirement is in addition to any fiber optic cable that will be used for the NIPRNet.</p> <p>For external building connectivity to the NEC, fiber will be made available by the Government to the CEN commercial carrier.</p>
Outdoor Activity Area	<p>Youth outdoor activity area should provide at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard surface patio area with optional shade structure • Open field area accessible to the facility • Hard stand surface area minimum 50'x50' (for basketball and other programming)
Parking	<p>Parking for patrons and staff is required. Parking allocation is ABA compliant: 1 parking space per each full-time staff; 1 per every 4 patrons, and 60 additional spaces for sporting events. Must provide a sidewalk that leads from the car directly to the front entry without crossing traffic lanes. Crosswalks are allowed but must be limited in their use. Buses to deliver and pick-up youth curbside on sidewalk that leads directly into the facility. Locate bicycle racks near the facility entrance in a secure location. For OCONUS locations parking will be determined by need/demand in concert with stakeholders.</p>
Exterior Lighting	<p>Exterior lighting systems provided for parking areas, sidewalks, service yards, service drives, building entrances and perimeter.</p>
Vehicular Circulation/Service Road/Drives	<p>Must provide site entrances, exits, service drives and special circulation areas sized to accommodate the largest vehicle that uses the area. Strive to locate service roads and entrances to be out of view when looking at the main entry point of the building and one that minimizes or eliminates the need for children to traverse roads to get into the building. All vehicular pathways must be kept away from youth and pedestrian pathways and outdoor activity areas.</p>
Controlled Entry Access	<p>A buzzer security system, with manual override, must be installed to facilitate entry into the facility in accordance with AR 525-13.</p>
HVAC	<p>HVAC units will provide heating and air conditioning for the entire facility including the Mechanical and Electrical Rooms. A system with zoning flexibility must be provided to accommodate variations in usage (e.g., evenings, weekends, events).</p>
Mechanical-Electrical Room	<p>Mechanical room to open directly to the exterior of the building with no access to the interior space or direct access to the playground. Mechanical yard must be located away from the outdoor activity area for noise and environmental considerations.</p>
CATV (Cable Television)	<p>Provide CATV outlets in the teen room and the staff lounge at a minimum.</p>
Communication Room	<p>Provide separate room for communications sized to meet the minimum NEC requirement for electrical boxes and connections.</p>
Drinking Fountains	<p>Provide drinking fountains to the interior of the facility.</p>
DoD Building Code, UFC 1-200-01	<p>Youth Centers shall be designed in compliance with UFC 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements.</p>

Sustainability	Youth Centers shall be designed to meet current sustainable development and design policy requirements as established by the Department of the Army.
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GUIDANCE

Utilities — All utilities, except storm water, will be routed from the new structure underground to the existing source.

Landscaping — Irrigation of turf and significant landscaping may be required in geographical areas which are arid. Landscaping is an important tool in the implementation of Force Protection measures. Landscaped earth berms may be used to provide an attractive natural barrier. Shrubs, bushes, trees, flowers, etc. used around the Youth Center and outdoor activity area shall be evaluated for potential hazard or toxicity. No toxic chemicals or herbicides shall be used to clear the site of unwanted irrigation. Reference Assistant Secretary of the Defense memorandum dated March 2017, Subject: Water Use for Landscape Architecture on Department of Defense Installations/Sites.

Interior Color Scheme — Standardized interior colors schemes have been developed for the Garrison to select from.

Life Safety - Army Fire Safety Program requirements exceed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code requirements. The Army decision to employ more rigorous facility fire protection requirements in some areas was made to offset more stringent staff/child ratios established by NFPA 101 and the Army Regulation 608-10 Child Development Services (Section V Compliance Area: Child Development Center Fire Prevention C-66. Compliance item 1. The building fire protection systems shall be designed in accordance with the applicable standards contained in the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC 3-600-01), Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities, and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. A complete automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in accordance with UFC 3-600-01 and NFPA 13. Fire Extinguishers shall be placed in the structures in accordance with NFPA 101 and NFPA 10. The fire alarm system shall be designed in accordance with NFPA 72, which will provide pull stations at each exterior exit door, textual (voice) audible and visual (strobes) notification devices and smoke detectors located throughout the youth center. Placement of the Local Enunciator Panel (LOC) shall be placed at the entrance of the facility. The main Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) shall be placed in the Mechanical Room of the facility, with keys to access the rooms and reset panels to be placed in the required Knox Box at the main entrance of the facility. The Mass Notification System shall be integrated with the fire alarm system in accordance with the Design and O&M: Mass Notification Systems (UFC 4-021-01).

Video Monitoring Security System/Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) - AR 420-1, Section VII, Information Systems Support is the source of Army policy for funding of video monitoring equipment. MILCON/MCA dollars are to be used for cabling and fittings, connectors, terminal strips, and similar devices needed to install the cable up to the outlet device plate. Operating Maintenance Army (OMA) dollars are used to purchase and install monitors, cameras, parent viewing monitors, operating consoles, etc. for the video surveillance system. The equipment, external to the outlets, is considered personal property.

Signage — The facility shall be identified as a "Youth Center". The installation/garrison or community name or geographic location of the facility may be used for public identification purposes. Location of sign is a site-adapt issue. The facility signage is to be in accordance with the Installation Design Guide.

Design — Design requirements may be modified as needed to comply with Host Nation (OCONUS) laws, codes, and generally accepted construction standards where practices are functionally equivalent and equal to or more stringent than US criteria (i.e., wall assembly types, fixtures mounting, finishes, etc.).

Standard Design Criteria Youth Centers Middle School Youth (Ages 11-15) and Teens (Ages 16-18) – Use the latest version of the Army Standard Design Criteria Room by Room Descriptions, which includes the Finish Schedule, material specifications and design details. This information is available at <https://mrsi.erdc.dren.mil/cos/hnc> , the USACE Huntsville Center of Standardization website.