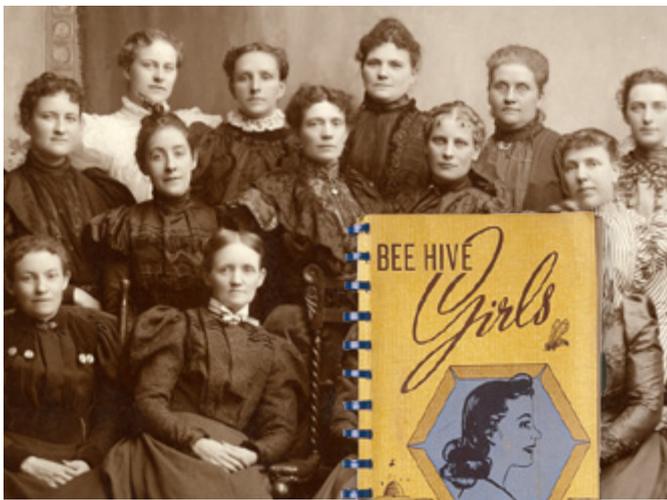


YOUNG WOMEN

Celebrating 150 Years

The Young Women organization is turning 150 this year, and it's time to celebrate! Check out these facts about how the organization has evolved from 1870 to today, what youth like you are doing to participate in Young Women now, and how you can be inspired by women in history who showed courage and faith.

1870–1920



NAME: The Young Ladies' Department of the Ladies' Cooperative Retrenchment Association is officially organized on May 27, 1870, under the direction of Brigham Young.¹ The name is changed to Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association in 1877.²

ORGANIZATION AND CLASSES: The Bee-Hive Girls program is created as a summer program for girls age 14 and older.



IMPROVEMENT AND RECOGNITION: The Bee-Hive Handbook is published in 1915, outlining eight "fields" of personal improvement: Religion, Home, Health, Domestic Arts, Out-of-Doors, Business, and Public Service.³

MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS: The first issue of *Young Woman's Journal* is published in 1889.⁴ Many local Mutual Improvement Associations (or MIAs) produce their own handwritten newspapers with only one or two copies for the girls to pass around.

1920–1970

NAME: The Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association changes to the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association in 1934.⁵

ORGANIZATION AND CLASSES: There are two classes, Bee-Hive Girls for the younger girls and Gleaners for the older girls. The age of entry into the program changes from 14 to 12. In 1950, the Mia Maid class is introduced.



IMPROVEMENT AND RECOGNITION: The Golden Gleaner recognition marks the highest achievement young women can earn in the program.

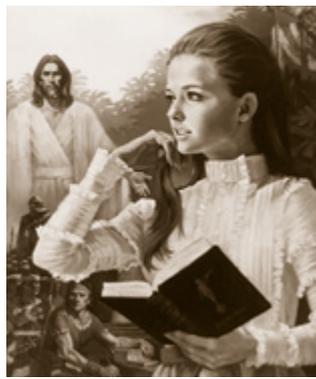




1970–2019



MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS: The *Young Woman's Journal* merges with the *Improvement Era* magazine for all youth in 1929.⁶



NAME: The Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association changes to the Young Women organization in 1974.⁷



ORGANIZATION AND CLASSES: By 1972, the Young Women organization has three classes: Beehives (ages 12–13), Mia Maids (ages 14–15), and Laurels (ages 16–17). Beginning 2019, young women enter Beehives in January of the year they turn 12.

IMPROVEMENT AND RECOGNITION: The Personal Progress program and medallion are introduced in 1977. The Young Women values of Faith, Divine Nature, Individual Worth, Knowledge, Choice and Accountability, Good Works, and Integrity are added in 1987.⁸ Virtue is added to the values in 2008.⁹

MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS: The *New Era* magazine for youth begins publication in English in 1971, and the *Liahona* provides articles for youth in many languages.¹⁰



PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUNG WOMAN WEARING PERSONAL PROGRESS MEDALLION BY ALICIA CERVA; YOUTH WALKING IN FRONT OF THE MANILA, PHILIPPINES TEMPLE; PROFILE OF YOUNG WOMAN COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY



Fun Facts

1. The 1915 Bee-Hive handbook allowed young women to choose projects from over 300 different options. Some of those projects included caring for a hive of bees for a whole season, keeping the house free from flies for two weeks, or clearing sagebrush from at least one-half acre of land.¹²



2020



NOTES

1. See "Timeline of Young Women History," history.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/landing/a-brief-timeline-of-young-women-history.
2. See "Young Women's Timeline," *Mormon Women's Studies Resource*, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, mormonwomen.lib.byu.edu/young-womens-portal/young-women-timeline.
3. See "History of Young Women Recognition," history.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
4. See "Young Women's Timeline."
5. See "Young Women's Timeline."
6. See "Young Women's Timeline."
7. See "Young Women's Timeline."
8. See "Young Women's Timeline."
9. See "New Young Women Value: Virtue," Dec. 9, 2008, thechurchnews.com.
10. See "Young Women's Timeline."
11. See ChildrenAndYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
12. See "History of Young Women Recognition."
13. See "History of Young Women Recognition."
14. See "Young Women Classes and Symbols," ChurchofJesusChrist.org/young-women/personal-progress.
15. See "History of Young Women Recognition."
16. See "The Annual Report of the Church," *Ensign*, July 1972, 131-33.
17. See "Worldwide Statistics," newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/facts-and-statistics.

NAME: The name remains Young Women organization.

ORGANIZATION AND CLASSES: Classes are organized in each ward or branch according to its needs and identified by the unifying label "Young Women" (for example, "Young Women 12," "Young Women 12-15," or just "Young Women" if they all meet together).

IMPROVEMENT AND RECOGNITION: Children and Youth replaces the Personal Progress program. The new program encourages personalized opportunities to grow in the areas of Personal Development, Gospel Learning, and Service and Activities.¹¹

MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS: The *New Era* magazine for youth nears its 50th anniversary. **NE**



2. Early Bee-Hive Girls wore uniforms designed by each local association, and in 1922, the official colors of the Mutual Improvement Association became gold and green.¹³



3. The name Beehive came from the pioneers, who saw the beehive as a symbol of work and harmony. Mia Maid came from the Mutual Improvement Association acronym, MIA. The name Laurel referred to the laurel wreath, which means honor and achievement.¹⁴



4. Between the 1940s and 1960s, young women could earn emblems they sewed onto a felt band called a bandelo, which they wore across their chest. One requirement to earn an emblem was to “strive to get your full nine hours’ beauty sleep each night this month.”¹⁵



5. General Church membership increased from about 110,000 people in 1870¹⁶ to more than 16 million people by 2020¹⁷—think of how many young women there are around the world now!