

75 Ways Jaycees Have Changed America

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1. More than 11 million young adults in the United States and 20 million worldwide have been provided the opportunity to acquire leadership skills as Jaycees since 1920.

2. In 1932, Jaycees began naming Distinguished Service Award winners; leading up to the nation's inspirational and enduring annual program of recognizing the Ten Outstanding Young Men, later renamed Ten Outstanding Young Americans.

3. Jaycee Charles A. Lindberg helped to usher in the age of commercial aviation with his 1927 solo flight from New York to Paris. Later, The U.S. Junior Chamber worked with Lindberg to develop the U.S. Airmail Service.

4. A long history of patriotic educational programs began on the national level in 1926 with the Know America First campaign.

5. The formation of the Young Republicans clubs was started by President Herbert Hoover in 1932 after being suggested by U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce President George Olmsted, who then signed up 4 million young Republicans - one fourth the total number of voters.

6. Jaycees helped administer 7 million doses of Rubella measles vaccine in 1971, volunteering more than 3 million hours in the effort.

7. The U.S. Junior Chamber played the leading role in the formation of Junior Chamber International in 1944. More than 9 million young people outside the United States have joined since then.

8. A 1978 Bowl for Breath fund-raiser by the Jaycees and Jaycettes of Southeastern Wisconsin, in cooperation with McDonald's restaurants and 27 bowling centers, earned nearly \$65,000 in the fight against cystic fibrosis.

9. The U.S. Junior Chamber turned aviation from a stunt flying novelty into a practical reality in the 1920s and 1930s with projects that ranged from marking existing airports to building many new ones.

10. In 1932, Minnesota Jaycees successfully campaigned for an expansive national forest on the Minnesota-Canadian border. Their work led to the creation of Quetico Provincial Park in Canada and Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

11. Established in 1981, the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center is recognized as one of the most comprehensive burn facilities in the United States.

12. Since 1926 when the Junior Chamber provided hurricane relief in Florida, America has been able to count on the Jaycees when disaster strikes. A few examples: After Hurricane Betsy hit southern Louisiana in 1965, and after Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of the Southeast in 1992, Jaycees cared for thousands of homeless people and helped them rebuild their communities. In 1993, Jaycees were instrumental in bringing relief to the flood-stricken Midwest.

13. After a 1977 flood in Colorado's Big Thompson Canyon destroyed the town of Drake, and killed more than 100 people, the Longmont Jaycees directed 10 other chapters in coordinating rescue operations and aid, including the collection of several tons of food and clothing.

14. After Hurricane Camille killed 221 people in the Gulfport, Mississippi area in 1969, Operation Comeback had Jaycee chapters from across the country quickly collecting more food and clothing than officials could distribute.

15. Florida Jaycees collected and sent more than eight tons of food, clothing, and medical supplies to Peru after a devastating earthquake in 1971.

16. For a nation plagued by loan sharks during the Depression Years of the 1930s, Junior Chamber chapters helped create legislation in state after state to curtail loan sharking.

17. The U.S. Junior Chamber consistently fought the threat of communism to the American way of life in the mid-1930s with extensive programs on Americanism.

18. Fifteen Jaycee Place, a \$3.5 million multistory senior citizens residence, opened in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1977. Local Jaycees had developed the proposal for federal funding and provided a myriad of services.

19. In 1937, Jaycees launched several state and national programs to inform the public of the need for diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases.

20. In 1929, Jaycees in Mobile, Alabama, planted 35 miles of azaleas which, when they bloom each spring, still attract tourists from the world over, who pour millions of dollars into the local economy.

21. In many communities not serviced by aircraft in the mid-1960s, Jaycees built landing strips for light planes.

22. Several years ahead of widespread public concern, Jaycees were conducting a myriad of programs to combat air and water pollution in the early and mid-1960s.

23. Over a period of 13 years, starting in 1977, Jaycees contributed nearly \$20 million to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

24. In 1973, The U.S. Jaycees received the highest recognition from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for contributing the greatest effort toward eradicating the disease.

25. Ben Caylor, from Higginsville, Missouri, shared the gift of Jaycees with America by signing up 835 paid members and creating 33 chapters in a 12 month period in 1978.

26. For many years, Jaycees helped young women earn college scholarships through their sponsorship of local and state Miss America pageants.

27. The U.S. Junior Chamber was at the forefront of the FBI's campaign in the 1930s to establish the new technique of fingerprinting as a method of identification.

28. Several states passed legislation regulating the sale and use of fireworks in 1939 thanks to the work of Junior Chamber members.

29. In a courageous, unselfish act, The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce became the nation's first young men's group to back the principle of the draft six months *before* the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

30. Throughout the 1940s, Jaycees lead national efforts to help war veterans adjust to civilian life.

31. Jaycee Joe Bowen from Louisville, Kentucky, made a six month trek across America on stilts to support the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce's muscular dystrophy fund-raising program. His torturous 3,008 mile test of human endurance shattered the worldwide stilt-walking record and raised more than \$100,000 for the cause.

32. Thousands of Jaycees have taken the knowledge they've gained at 34 Governmental Affairs Leadership Seminars in Washington, D.C., to better serve their communities.

33. Operation Identification in 1972 had Jaycees making major crime prevention efforts in thousands of communities.

34. Jaycee Arms, a \$3.7 million high-rise project for low and moderate income retired people was dedicated by the North Columbus (Ohio) Jaycees in 1972.

35. With the help of Aetna Life Companies in 1945, the Junior Chamber was one of the first organizations to methodically combat juvenile delinquency nationwide by sending free educational films and manuals to all U.S. chapters.

36. Jaycees focused on problems in Vietnam before most of the nation had heard of the country. In 1955, The U.S. Junior Chamber joined Operation Brotherhood which eventually raised more than \$1 million and created 350 villages for refugees fleeing Communists in Vietnam.

37. After backing President Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam policies in 1965, Jaycees worked with Young Democrats and Young Republicans to collect food, drugs, clothing and other goods valued at \$100 million for the people of Vietnam in what was called America's Christmas Train and Truck program.

38. In 1966-67, Michigan Jaycees raised \$185,000 to build a hospital and orphanage for South Vietnamese children as part of Project Concern. Indiana Jaycees secured a four-wheel International Scout for the Project Concern efforts.

39. In 1965, Jaycees were presented the first annual National Award of Distinction from the National Clean Up – Paint Up – Fix up Bureau for a mammoth record of projects first initiated in 1916 when the organization was called the Young Men's Progressive Civic Association.

40. The Junior Chamber in Flint, Michigan conducted a cleanup campaign in 1926 that collected 7 million pounds of trash in just one week.

41. Over the course of 30 years, Jaycees have taught gun handling, safety, marksmanship and competitive shooting to more than 5 million youngsters through the Shooting Education program.

42. Scores of communities were brightened with thousands of street lights in The U.S. Junior Chambers' 1939 Safety with Light campaign.

43. In 1954, the world's premier farmer recognition program was established by The U.S. Junior Chamber. Since then, more than 1,300 Outstanding Young Farmers have received national recognition.

44. The East St. Louis (Illinois) Junior Chamber led a successful campaign to construct a \$500,000 subway tunnel in 1926, eliminating a dangerous rail crossing and keeping a national highway from being detoured away from the city.

45. Operation Alternative was the Jaycees' 1966 response to Great Society federal programs. Jaycees from 12 states in Appalachia created new jobs, trained unskilled employees, improved housing, encourages high school education and prevented crime for several years.

46. The Birmingham (Alabama) Junior Chamber made construction of Municipal Stadium possible by selling more than \$100,000 worth of bonds in 1927-28.

47. The Jaycees against Youth Smoking (JAYS) program, launched in 1994, focuses efforts on the issue of underage smoking. Chapters are building community coalitions to raise awareness of and compliance with minimum-age laws, thus reducing minors' access to tobacco nationwide.

48. More than 23 million Americans were reached through Operation Threshold in 1976-77, a Jaycee program launched in 1972 to reduce alcohol abuse.

49. Starting in 1952 and continuing through the 1960s, Jaycees impressed teenagers with safe driving reasons and methods through the Teenage Safe Driving Road-e-o.

50. In 1949, The U.S. Junior Chamber began a long and intensive campaign for adoption of the reforms suggested by the Hoover Commission for efficiency and cost savings in federal government. After 80 percent of the reforms were eventually enacted, Jaycees received much of the credit.

51. In 1957, Jaycees in tiny Wewoka, Oklahoma, helped created the largest payroll in the community, 72 people, by luring a manufacturer to relocate there after the Jaycees raised \$45,000 to pay moving expenses and refurbish an old building for the company.

52. The Junior Chamber was a leading group in supporting statehood for Hawaii in 1951 and for Alaska in 1959.

53. The nation's traffic ordinances and highway signs are virtually uniform today because Jaycees in the early 1960s worked hard to create and enact the Uniform Vehicle Code.

54. In 1970, Jaycees' cooperation with other service organizations resulted in the founding of the National Center for Voluntary Action.

55. Jaycees on the state and national levels coordinated the efforts to form the National Wildlife Federation in 1936.

56. Jaycees spent an estimated 2.5 million hours on environmental improvement projects in 1972-73. Several recycling centers were established by chapters, almost a decade before the nation fully realized the importance of resource recovery. The National Wildlife Federation named The U.S. Jaycees its Conservation Organization of the Year. Today, the national Green Works! Program continues the Junior Chamber tradition of action on the environmental front.

57. Recognizing the commercial need and potential of government plans for development of America's inland waterways in 1920, The U.S. Junior Chamber was one of the first civic groups to vocalize its support.

58. In 1985, The U.S. Junior Chamber pledged its support to Danny Thomas' St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, adding millions to a fund-raising drive that was initiated by The U.S. Jaycee Women.

59. Throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, Jaycees made major strides in improving the nation's mental health care. Among the many accomplishments under a national program were: Columbus (Georgia) Jaycees developed an outpatient clinic for alcoholics and a halfway house for mentally ill patients; Jaycees in Wisconsin administered a camp for the retarded and a series of public education meetings; and Albany, Missouri, members formed a diagnostic clinic for mentally retarded children which served as a model for similar centers throughout the Midwest.

60. In 1974, Baltimore Jaycees raised more than \$200,000 to provide 54,000 needy children with toys or clothing as part of the chapter's 42nd annual Santa Claus Anonymous program.

61. In 1982, Jaycees began recognizing national role models for fitness by honoring 10 Healthy American Fitness Leaders each year.

62. Jaycees in Huntington, West Virginia, started a massive park and recreational complex in 1945 in an overpopulated area of town. The park expanded to feature a wading pool, baseball diamonds, volleyball and basketball courts, dressing rooms, and a daily recreation program.

63. Major contributions to the world of golf were initiated in 1926 when the Los Angeles Junior Chamber established the Los Angeles Open. In 1953, Jaycees established Professional Golfers Association tour stops at Greensboro, North Carolina, and Hartford, Connecticut.

64. Starting with the first national Junior Golf Championship in 1946, The U.S. Junior Chamber subsequently established long-standing instruction and competition programs for millions of youngsters in Junior Tennis, Junior Ski, and Junior Champ (track and field).

65. In the early 1950s, Jaycees raised \$300,000 to help finance the 1956 U.S. Olympic team's appearance in Australia.

66. The Connecticut Jaycees built a 12-room school for the children of Paraiba, Brazil, in 1972.

67. Jaycees helped reduce fire fatalities through distributing 5 million stickers as part of Operation Red Ball in 1972.

68. The U.S. Junior Chamber led all national organizations in gathering scrap, selling war bonds and stamps, obtaining blood plasma and generating services for soldiers during World War II. In four hours in 1943, the Oklahoma City Junior Chamber sold \$1 million worth of war bonds.

69. In 1966-67, Atlanta Jaycees initiated a massive rehabilitation program in the wake of racial rioting in an Atlanta slum area called Summerhill. Along with organizing a major cleanup, they created a recreation program, equipped play grounds, started youth sports leagues, formed scout troops, opened a community center, and dispensed free legal, financial, health and personal advice six days a week.

70. Jaycees in Dayton, Tennessee, parlayed a \$300 Project Mainstream government grant into a \$30,000 community mobile speech and hearing clinic. Nationally, Project Mainstream activity by Jaycees reached 2.5 million poor and disadvantaged people in 71 communities in 1974-75.

71. Jaycees are said to have contributed more time and money to build and improve local libraries in the 1950s than what was provided by the federal government.

72. The United States Jaycees Center for Improved Child Nutrition was opened in Bloomington, Minnesota, in 1973.

73. Vigorous calisthenics in school gym classes across the nation were promoted by The U.S. Junior Chamber, which acted as the exclusive distributor for millions of "Chicken Fat" exercise records from 1962-64.

74. In 1978-79, more than 2,000 chapters trained 4,000 instructors the basic life support technique of CPR. It was estimated that 24 lives were saved and up to 100,000 people learned CPR during the year because of Jaycee efforts.

75. Early this year, Jaycees across the country began raising funds to establish the Junior Chamber Mission Inn, a facility in St. Louis for children and adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS. If plans are successful to open Junior Chamber Mission Inns in several states, it will represent one of the greatest achievements in the organization's 75-year history.

The above items and far more are thoroughly explored in a new hard-bound book, *A Legacy of Leadership*, published by The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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