



History and Fact Sheet for Pioneer Clubs

Leadership

Judy Bryson, President/CEO
Sharen Rose, Chair, Board of Directors

Corporate Office

Pioneer Clubs is headquartered in Wheaton, IL, and serves thousands of churches in nearly every state and Canadian province.

Timeline

- 1939** Betty Whitaker, a Wheaton College freshman, starts Girls Guild, later to be renamed Pioneer Girls®.
- 1940s** The expanding summer camp program is named Camp Cherith. Pioneer Girls clubs spread to 15 states and two Canadian provinces.
- 1950s** A National Camp Council is formed and sets national Camp Cherith standards for program, safety, and facilities.
- 1960s** Pioneer Girls' 25th anniversary celebration includes a year-long trip across the country with a replica of a covered wagon.
- 1970s** The first- and second-grade club program is released.
- 1981** A single program is developed that meets the needs of both boys and girls. The organization is incorporated under the new name Pioneer Ministries, Inc., with Pioneer Girls now known as Pioneer Clubs.
- 1986** The Scooter Club program for four- and five-year-olds begins.
- 1990** Pioneer Clubs introduces the Skipper Club program for two- and three-year-olds.
- 2004** 65th anniversary of Pioneer Clubs.
- 2003** The Discovery program, the small-church solution, is released.
- 2005-07** Trailblazer, Pathfinder and Voyager curriculum completely revised.
- 2007** Pioneer Clubs debuts the Exploring program large-group-format club program.