

[When Village People Sing "Y.M.C.A." for Donald Trump](#)

Village People is an American [disco](#) group known for its on-stage costumes and suggestive lyrics in their music. The group was originally formed by French producers [Jacques Morali](#) and [Henri Belolo](#) and lead singer [Victor Willis](#) following the release of the debut album [Village People](#), which targeted disco's large gay audience. The group's name refers to [Manhattan's Greenwich Village](#), with its reputation as a [gayborhood](#) [a "portmanteau word" putting together "gay" and "neighborhood"]. The characters [a cowboy, an American Indian, a policeman, a biker, a builder, etc.] were a symbolic group of American masculinity and [macho](#) gay-fantasy personas. As of January 2020, Willis is the only original member of the group (source: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Village_People). The song is quite typical of good-mood disco music.

"Y.M.C.A." was already used by the Republicans in 2020, although the group were not happy about it. In 2024, Willis supported Kamal Harris during the election. But as sales of the song rose have risen strongly, Willis agreed to perform at President Trumps' inauguration on 20 January 2025, saying that the group is not political (source: [France Info TV](#)). *Village People* were joined at the inauguration by the leaders of Silicon Valley... and Eric Zemmour. [Elon Musk gave a Nazi salute](#).

Young man, there's no need to **feel down**.
I said, young man, **pick yourself off the ground**.
I said, young man, 'cause you're in a new town
There's no need to be unhappy.

Young man, there's a place you can go.
I said, young man, when you're short on your **dough**.
You can stay there, and I'm sure you will find
Many ways to have a good time.

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A...
They have everything for young men to enjoy,
You can hang out with all the boys...
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A...
You can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal,
You can do whatever you feel...

Young man, are you listening to me?
I said, young man, what do you **wanna be**?
I said, young man, you can make real your dreams.
But you got to know this one thing!

No man does it all by himself.
I said, young man, put your pride on the shelf,
And just go there, to the Y.M.C.A.
I'm sure they can help you today... It's fun to stay ...

They have everything for young men to enjoy,
You can hang out with all the boys... It's fun to stay...
You can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal,
You can do whatever you feel...

Young man, **I was once in your shoes**.
I said, I was down and out with the blues.
I felt no man cared if I were alive.
I felt the whole world was so **jive**...

That's when someone came up to me,
And said, "Young man, take a walk up the street.
There's a place there called the 'Y.M.C.A.'
They can start you back on your way." ... It's fun...

To feel down = to feel depressed
To pick yourself off the ground = to get up again, to get on
'cause = a short, slang form of because

Dough = in this case "money" (otherwise flour and water to make bread)

Wanna be = slang for "want to be"
A "wannabe" is also someone who wants to succeed in a particular job, but isn't, someone who wants to be famous

I was once in your shoes = I was once in your place

Jive = here jive means deceitful, worthless, but normally **to jive** means to dance in a lively way



[Village People - YMCA \(OFFICIAL Music Video 1978\)](#)

The original video.