

2023-2024

# PARENT HANDBOOK



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF BROWARD COUNTY  
[www.bgcbc.org](http://www.bgcbc.org)

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BROWARD COUNTY**  
877 NW 61ST STREET FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309  
(954) 537-1010

# WE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO CONTINUE #SHAPINGFUTURES

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS



### THE NEED

24.7% of young people in Broward County fail to graduate from high school on time.\*

### WHAT WE DO

Staff and volunteers place an importance on encouraging members, age 6-18, to strive for academic excellence through our year round academic programs.

### OUR IMPACT

Among our Teen Members, **96%** graduated from High School. **76%** enrolled in College.

## GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

### THE NEED

8% of high school students had been in a physical altercation on school property one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.\*

### WHAT WE DO

Staff and volunteers provide opportunities for all members to engage in community service learning projects and leadership development.

### OUR IMPACT

**828** total project volunteer hours completed. **196,524** volunteer hours completed by High School Members.



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



### THE NEED

31% of young people ages 7-12 in Broward County are overweight or obese.\*

### WHAT WE DO

Staff and volunteers encourage a lifelong commitment to the benefits of healthy nutrition and physical fitness.

### OUR IMPACT

**353,848** hours of physical fitness activities performed. **844,246** healthy snacks and meals served.

## THE CLUB EXPERIENCE

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home. We provide welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.



### OUR REACH

3,931 Youth between the ages of 6-18 served

**12** Boys & Girls Clubs Sites in Broward County



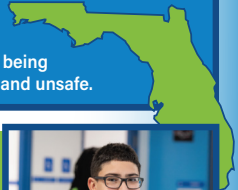
**247** Adult Staff

**1504** Volunteer hours



## THE NEED IN OUR STATE

Every day 541,481 kids in Florida leave school with nowhere to go. They risk being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe.



**51%** OF MEMBERS' FAMILIES REPORTED THAT THEY EARN LESS THAN \$20,000 ANNUALLY



**65%** OF MEMBERS' FAMILIES REPORTED THAT THEY ARE SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES



**73%** OF MEMBERS ATTEND TITLE I SCHOOLS



**83%** OF MEMBERS QUALIFIED FOR FREE OR REDUCED SCHOOL LUNCH

# WELCOME



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF BROWARD COUNTY  
[www.bgcbc.org](http://www.bgcbc.org)

It is our honor and privilege to welcome you and your child to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing a positive, safe, and healthy environment for your child. Our goal is to instill in your child a sense of belonging, competence, and usefulness. We look forward to fulfilling our mission of serving "children who need us most."

Matt Organ, Co-CEO  
Chris Gentile, Co-CEO

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens."*

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# BGCBC Safety Standards



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
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BGCBC has a **ZERO** tolerance for inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child sexual abuse or misconduct, and we provide significant resources to ensure this priority is achieved.

**Culture of Safety:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County continually updates robust safety policies, programs and training for our staff and volunteers. These policies are designed to promote child safety and protect young people from threats that are present in our society.

**Safety Policies:** BGCBC has comprehensive safety policies in place that protect youth including, but not limited to, supervision, transportation, and communication and prohibiting one-on-one contact with anyone under the age of 18.

**24-Hour Toll-Free Child Safety Hotline:** We require all staff, members, and families to report any incident or situation they feel is unsafe. Through our national partnership with Presidium, one of the nation's leading safety experts, Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County members and staff have access to a confidential 24-hour, toll-free Child safety Hotline, 866-607-SAFE (7233) or email [SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com](mailto:SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com).

**Mandatory Background & Drug Testing Checks:** BGCBC conducts criminal background checks every 12 months of all employees, as well as all volunteers who have direct, repetitive contact with children, through the Florida Department of Children & Families Background Screening Clearinghouse. Background checks must also meet Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) membership requirements. In addition, BGCBC is a "drug free" workplace. All prospective employees and volunteers are pre-screened and subject to random drug testing throughout the year.

**Visitor Management System:** To ensure the safety and well-being of our Clubs, members, staff and volunteers, all visitors to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County are screened prior to entering. The Visitor Management System screens individuals against the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) and for any criminal activity.



**Safe Passage Policy:** BGCBC requires all members to scan in and out each day with their KidTrax card. In addition, members may not leave the Club unescorted unless they are 12 years and older and have parent consent to do so noted in the membership application.

**Required Immediate Reporting:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County staff and volunteers are all mandated reporters. We are required to report any critical incident/safety concern to local authorities immediately. We are also required to report any critical incident to Boys & Girls Clubs of America within 24 hours. Mandatory Annual Safety Assessments: We conduct a safety assessment each year to ensure we continually make improvements to safety at our Clubs.

**Safety Trainings:** Ongoing training and supervision of staff is critical. We participate in a wide variety of child safety trainings each year. We also engage leading third-party safety experts to provide guidance for our policies and procedures. This includes training through BGCA Spillett Leadership University. Training modules/themes include:

- Child Abuse Prevention
- Mandated Reporting
- Grooming Prevention
- CPR & AED certification
- Active Shooter Training
- Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Committee

**Safety Committee:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County has a dedicated safety committee to provide input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies. The safety committee has implemented the following:

- Annual safety training for full and part-time staff
- BGCBC Safety First Video and Quiz for staff and to be completed during the onboarding phase of employment
- Guidance and implementation of BGCBC Pandemic Protocols
- Child & Club Safety – Facility Safety Check



**State and Local Laws:** We comply with federal, state and Local safety laws, including those impacting facilities and vehicles.

- Code Red Sirens
- Video security system
- Glass security partitions installed
- 

**Safety Partnerships:** Locally, we partner with local law enforcement agencies where our clubs are located (Broward Sheriff's Office, Hollywood Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Lauderhill Police Department, and Davie Police Department) as well as 3rd-party Safety Consultants and various outside agencies committed to the protection of our youth.

Nationally, Boys & Girls Clubs of America works with leading experts in the areas of safety, security and technology to develop state-of-the-art solutions for Clubs. Partners include:

- National Child Safety Advisory Task Force, made up of leading experts and organizations
- Blue Ribbon Task Force comprised of local Club leaders charged with providing input on the safety direction and key safety initiatives.
- Mental Health First Aid, a national program that teaches skills to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse.
- Crisis Text Line, a confidential text message service for youth in times of crisis.

**Virtual Programming:** In a continuous effort to improve the quality, safety, and reach of our programs, Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is providing distance-based Club experiences through online platforms. We will use applications provided by third parties that members, parents/guardians, and/or staff will access via the Internet and use for purposes of communication and programming. These platforms include BGCA's MyFuture, Zoom, Google Voice, Microsoft Teams, and GroupMe, but may include other platforms as well. In order for Club members to participate in our virtual programs, the registering parent must complete and sign a permission slip.

# SAFE PASSAGE



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
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**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF  
BROWARD COUNTY IS  
COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING  
AND SUSTAINING THE HIGHEST  
LEVEL OF SAFETY FOR MEMBERS  
AND STAFF AS A WHOLE.**

**Club Members are not free to come and  
go from the Club throughout the day as  
they wish.**



# Safe Passage



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## **Members:**

- Must scan in and out each day with their KidTrax card.
- May not leave the Club unescorted unless they are 12 years and older and have included in their membership application written parent/guardian consent. After scanning out for the day, Club members will not be permitted to return to the Club until the following day. Members that leave the Club for a doctor's visit or other emergency situation may be allowed to return to the Club at the Club Director's discretion. Members that leave the Club without permission may face disciplinary actions up to and including suspension and termination of membership.

## **Parents/Guardians:**

- Must retrieve child(ren) under 12 from the Club, identify and authorize a minimum of (3) additional contacts over 18, who may be picking-up their child(ren).
- In order for us to ensure the safety & security of our Club members, please be prepared to present your photo ID at the front desk so we may scan your information into our SilverShield database.
- May include in their membership application approval for members ages 12 and older that are current members of the club, to escort their younger sibling/family member, under the age of 12, out of the Club for the day.

## **BGCBC Staff:**

- Will not respond to phone calls requesting member/s to be dismissed without their authorized escort.
- Will review ID Cards for identified additional contacts once they arrive at the Club.
- Will not accept phone calls from parents/guardians requesting that an unidentified contact will be escorting members.
- Will not accept responsibility for any members that leave the Club unescorted/unsupervised and in breach of this policy.
- Phone calls, emails and faxes for authorization WILL NOT be accepted.

# YOUTH PROGRAM MODEL



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
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The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County's programs are designed to address the following youth outcomes:

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

increases grade-level advancement  
and reduces high-school drop-out rates

## GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

increases community service and  
reduces juvenile crime rates

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

encourages healthy behaviors and  
decreases drug use and obesity rates

# HOURS OF OPERATION



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Monday-Friday: 2:00PM-7:00PM

Early Release Days: 12:00PM-7:00pm

School Off Days: 8:30AM – 5:30PM (except holidays)

Saturday: 11:00AM - 3:00PM (during school year)

\*Hours are subject to change

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## CLUBS CLOSED

New Years Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;  
Memorial Day; Juneteenth; Independence Day;  
Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day & the next day;  
Holiday season observance December 24 to  
December 27 and January 1.

# Late Policy



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Please pick up your child on time. If you are going to be late, please call the Club to make the staff aware of your situation.

Late fees are as follows:

- There will be a \$5.00 charge per child for the first 15 minutes you are late and a \$1.00 fee for every minute late thereafter.
- Law Enforcement will be called if you are over 30 minutes late.
- Late fees not paid will affect your child's membership.
- Abuse of our late policy such as chronic late pick-up and/or unpaid late fees will be grounds for suspension and/or termination of membership.

The Club opens and closes promptly as posted. **We ask that parents ensure that their children do not arrive early or leave late.** Children remaining at the Club at closing time will be taken in the office to call parent/ guardian or emergency contact to pick them up. If we are unable to get in touch with the parent/guardian or emergency contact after a 30-minute window, we reserve the right to contact local law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services.

***\*This fee must be paid before your child/children may return to the Club. NO EXCEPTIONS!***

# Cell Phone/Personal Device policy (Ages 6-12)



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Cell phones or other personal electronic devices (iPods, iTouch, MP3 players, and tablets) are not to be used while at the Club. This includes but is not limited to texting, gaming, video capturing, picture taking, Internet usage and the use of social media i.e. Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc. If a Club member possesses personal technology, they should be silenced and kept out-of-sight including inside a pocket, book bag, or purse. If these devices disrupt our daily process or are out at any point while the member is at the Club, progressive discipline will be implemented and the item in question will be confiscated. The item will only then be released to a parent/guardian upon pick-up.

Boys & Girls Clubs employees will not be held liable for wireless communication or other electronic devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.

We do understand that cell phones are a means of communication with your child. The Club does have a phone line for the usage of our Club members. Please keep in mind that this phone is for urgent matters only!

# Cell Phone/Personal Device Policy (Ages 13 and up)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
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This policy will allow members (ages 13 and up) to use their own technology devices, including laptops, tablets, and/or smartphones at the Club. It can be used in our facilities in approved locations only; otherwise, the cell phone cannot be used and should be on silent or muted mode. The Club prohibits use of personally owned devices in locker rooms and restrooms and other areas where there is an expectation of privacy.

Members are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology devices. Any inappropriate use of a personally owned device, can lead to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, confiscation of the device, immediate suspension from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County (BGCBC), expulsion, and/or if applicable, referral to local law enforcement.

## **Inappropriate Communication:**

- Obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language or images, typed, posted or spoken by members; information that could cause damage to an individual or the Club/BGCBC or danger the Club environment; personal attacks, harassment, stalking of others; recklessly posting false information about a person or BGCBC. If a member is told to stop sending communications, that member must cease the activity immediately.
- Members may not utilize technology to harass, threaten, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy their peers or others in the community. This behavior is cyberbullying. Any cyberbullying that disrupts the safety and/or well-being of the Club, Club Members, Club Staff, BGCBC, or the community is subject to disciplinary action as stated above.

BGCBC reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a personally owned device that is brought to the Club. **Parents/Guardians will be notified before such an inspection takes place and may be present during the inspection.** Parents/Guardian may refuse to allow such inspections but the member may be barred from bringing personally owned devices to the Club. In addition, The Club reserves the right to suspend or expel a member for not following the policy. BGCBC/Staff are not liable for the loss, damage, misuse, theft of any personal device brought to the Club.



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## MEMBERSHIP

Boys & Girls Club membership is open to all boys & girls **age 6 (in the first grade for the 2022-2023 school year) through age 18.**

Children ages 6 & 7 must show proof of age (e.g. original birth certificates, passports, green cards) AND 6-year-olds must provide proof of enrollment in the first grade or higher for the 2021-2022 school year. All members must provide proof of Student School ID number upon registering.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County will provide an equal opportunity for all members to receive access to services provided regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or national origin.

A parent must attend an orientation each new program year prior to registering their child(ren) for the Club. Teens ages 15+ may attend their own orientation as long as parent completes and signs the membership application.

Only parents/legal guardians will be able to register child(ren) as members. The parent(s)/guardian(s) who signs the application are the only one(s) allowed to make changes and additions to the application.

There is a **\$15.00 annual membership fee**. The fee must be paid for each prospective member applying for membership. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County membership runs from the first day of school for Broward County Public Schools through the last day of the Broward County School Board's students' summer vacation.

## IMPORTANT:

We accept **cash & money orders only**. No checks or credit cards accepted. No Refunds. Payments made through the online registration portal are subject to a service fee.

## MEDICINE

Prescription and/or non-prescription medicine will **NOT** be administered or kept for a Club member by any Club staff at any time. **No exceptions.**

## CLUB CARDS

Each Club member is required to carry his/her Club membership card at all times while at the Club. Should a card be lost, replacement cards can be purchased for \$1.00 each. Club Cards are required on a

## MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every Club member is responsible for his/her own actions. The Club has three basic rules that every member must follow. These three rules will help to ensure the safety of all members and will also contribute to creating a fun, positive and memorable experience at the Club.

The three rules are as follows:

- Respect yourself and other members
- Respect all staff and volunteers
- Respect all Club property and equipment

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Swearing
- Verbal abuse
- Inappropriate and/or sexual physical contact
- Fighting or any other form of physical abuse
- Use or possession of controlled substances, weapons, or any tobacco product
- Theft
- Bullying and cyber bullying

## DRESS CODE

- Clothing shall be worn as it is designed (i.e. pants secured at the waist, belts buckled, no underwear as outerwear, no underwear exposed, etc.)
- Closed-toed footwear must be worn at all times. No Crocs.
- Appropriate length shorts/skirts

## The following is NOT permitted:

- Clothing that is too tight or revealing when standing, bending, sitting or moving
- Sexually implicit or explicit clothing, bikinis, or tank tops
- Garments and/or jewelry that display or suggest drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, sex, or vulgar related wording/graphics or may end to provoke violence or disruptions
- Gang paraphernalia, clothing, jewelry, tattoos or other insignias that display, suggest, provoke, or may tend to provoke violence or disruptions
- Hats, hoodies, or other headwear (except for religious purposes) worn inside.





## DISCIPLINE

**Our Clubs provide deterrence to negative behavior by providing activities that are engaging, fun and foster positive moral values. In the event that a Club member displays undesirable behavior, staff have been directed to take disciplinary action appropriate to the transgressions of the member. Disciplinary measures will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be at the discretion of the Boys & Girls Club Professional Staff.**

## SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County reserve the right to suspend or expel any Club member at any given moment. This policy is at the total discretion of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. The parent/guardian will be notified if his/her child is suspended or expelled from the Club.

When a member is suspended/expelled from their home club, they are suspended/expelled from ALL Clubs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County operates under a **Zero Tolerance** Policy for unruly behavior exhibited by Parents/Guardians of Boys & Girls Club members. To clarify, **under no circumstances** will we tolerate aggressive and/or threatening behavior, profane language & disrespect towards **any** Club staff, face-to-face or over the phone. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be subject to expulsion from **all** Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County properties.



## **LOITERING**

To ensure the safety of our members, the Club does not allow members to congregate and loiter around Club facilities and adjacent properties (including, but not limited to nearby parks, shops, playgrounds, etc.).

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Please have your child leave all personal belongings at home. We will not be held responsible for the loss, damage or theft of any items if they are brought to the Club and/or on field trips. We will not provide reimbursements for any lost, stolen or damaged items that are brought to the Club and/or on field trips. For safety, no member will be permitted to carry book bags, purses, tote bag, etc. around the Club. All items must be stored in designated area.

## **DAMAGE TO CLUB PROPERTY**

Parent(s) will be required to pay for damage done by their child(ren) to Club property.

## **REPORTS & VIDEO FOOTAGE**

BGCBC does not give copies of any of our documents nor provide access to our video footage unless we receive a court order to do so.

## **PHONES**

Front desk phones are for emergency calls only. Staff will call parents if needed; all other issues can be discussed when child is picked up from the Club. Children will not be called to the front desk to receive calls.

# Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County

[www.bgcbc.org](http://www.bgcbc.org)

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## Jim & Jan Moran Unit

27 S. Dixie Hwy, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33441  
Phone: 954-725-5545 | Fax: 954-725-5551

1

## JM Family Teen Center

31 S Dixie Highway, Deerfield Beach FL 33441  
Phone: 754-212-2838 | Fax: 954-725-5551

2

## Thomas D. Stephanis Unit

212 N.W. 16th Street, Pompano Beach, Florida 33060  
Phone: 954-941-2697 | Fax: 954-784-0381

3

## William E. Slaughter Club S. Robert Levine Campus

7201 Kimberly Blvd., N. Lauderdale, Florida 33068  
Phone: 954-726-3927 | Fax: 954-722-4464

3

## Leo Goodwin Foundation Teen Center

7201 Kimberly Blvd., N. Lauderdale, Florida 33068  
Phone: 954-722-5580 | Fax: 954-726-8059

4

## David & Kay Hughes Administrative Headquarters H. Wayne & Marti Huizenga Campus

877 NW 61st Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309  
Phone: 954-537-1010 | Fax: 954-537-1070

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## Lauderhill Unit

5455 NW 19th Street, Lauderhill, Florida 33313  
Phone: 954-731-3552 | Fax: 954-733-0924

6

## Nan Knox Unit

832 NW 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
Phone: 954-463-6392 | Fax: 954-524-6153

7

## Harold Reitman Unit

3025 W. Broward Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312  
Phone: 954-797-7097 | Fax: 954-797-0474

8

## Florence A. DeGeorge Unit

1220 SW 130th Avenue, Davie, Florida 33325  
Phone: 954-236-2790 | Fax: 954-236-9917

9

## Lester H. White Club

### NFL YET Unit

2621 S.W. 15th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312  
Phone: 954-585-6351 | Fax: 954-585-6391

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## Rick & Rita Case Unit

7525 N.W. 33rd Street, Davie, FL 33024  
Phone: 954-433-9000 | Fax: 954-704-0604

11

## Marti Huizenga Unit

1111 North 69th Way, Hollywood, Florida 33024  
Phone: 954-983-0626 | Fax: 954-983-0729

12

## Carver Ranches Unit

2205 S.W. 44th Avenue, West Park, Florida 33023  
Phone: 954-967-8787 | Fax: 954-967-8545



## Boys & Girls Club Code

I believe in God and the right to worship according to my own faith and religion.

I believe in America and the American way of life, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I believe in fair play, honesty and sportsmanship.

I believe in my Boys & Girls Club, which stands for all these things.

