

Mission Statement

To provide programs and services enabling all young people to achieve their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Boys & Girls Club Expansion Service*

The Fargo-Moorhead area has in excess of 21,000 school age youth that attend school during the day, 4,000 of which receive free and reduced meals in school based on their family income levels. What these youth are doing after school and during the summer is a concern for the community. The Youth Commission has decided to address this need by expanding their services as a charter member of The Boys & Girls Clubs of America. This branch will be known as the Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley. The expansion of services will allow the Youth Commission to continue the current services at the three existing Youth Centers (Fargo Youth Center, Youth Center at Rose Creek and the Moorhead Youth Center) during their normal hours, but also provide a place for kids in the evening hours. The Club Teen Center will also be open after school for youth in grades 6-12.

*The Youth Commission school based programs will continue to serve families at the elementary schools in Fargo and Moorhead.

History of the Youth Commission

The Youth Commission has a very strong history of service to the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Youth Commission is a private, nonprofit corporation serving the Fargo-Moorhead area since 1972 and operating after school childcare programs since 1986. We provide safe, convenient and affordable childcare for children ages 5-12; an important need throughout the elementary years. We know that flexible childcare can be hard to find and transportation even more difficult to arrange. That's why the Youth Commission, in cooperation with the local school districts, offers the convenience of a childcare program at or near local elementary schools.

History of the Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club has a long history of serving youth, starting back in 1860. The services have grown to now include a total of over 4,000 club houses that serve some 4.6 million youth throughout the year.

Role of Parents & Guardians

Parents and/or guardians play a vital role at the Boys & Girls Club. It is important that the parents or guardians be involved with the growth and development of each member.

Our purpose at the Boys & Girls Club is to provide assistance to the parents and/or guardians with their children. You are the primary role model in your child's life. By being involved with your child, you can instill values, gain trust and share love. If a problem arises, please direct your concerns to a staff member. To schedule an appointment to discuss and resolve the matter call the Boys & Girls Club Program Coordinator: 701/235-2147.

Youth Development Strategy

The efforts of youth professionals, parents, guardians, volunteers, concerned citizens, schools and local agencies come together to provide opportunities for our children to live full, satisfying and productive lives. It is important that all programs and activities promote these efforts to their full potential.

The Youth Development Strategy is designed to build self-esteem and allow our children to grow into responsible and caring adults by using four basic principles, described as senses:

- A Sense of Competence—Young people feel proud and confident when they acquire new skills and know they can do something and do it well.
- A Sense of Usefulness—Young people know the satisfaction of doing something of value for others.
- A Sense of Power and Influence—Young people know their opinions are heard and valued, giving them a sense of power and influence.
- A Sense of Belonging—Young people know they are welcomed, feel they fit in and are accepted.

Open Door Policy

The Boys & Girls Club has an open door policy. This means it is your responsibility, as the parent or guardian, to make sure your child remains at the Club and does not leave the premises when you expect him/her to be there. We urge you to please emphasize this with your child(ren), as the Boys & Girls Club cannot be responsible for your child if he/she is not on the premises.

Once your child is registered as a member, he/she will be issued a membership card. This card will be a requirement for entry into the Club. If your membership card is lost or stolen please contact the Fargo Youth Center at 701/235-2147.

Professional Staff

The Boys & Girls Club has a professional staff of full and part-time employees, as well as volunteers. Staff members and volunteers are trained and kept advised of the changing trends throughout the youth movement.

Mandated Reporter

Any staff member or volunteer who has knowledge of abuse or neglect of any individual or has reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect MUST report this information to Social Services and the Boys & Girls Club Executive Director as required by North Dakota Century Code 50-52.1 and Minnesota Statute section 626.556.

Membership Information/Scholarships

Membership is open to youth between the ages of 6-18 years, grades K-12, without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. The annual membership fee is \$10.00 per child. A parent/guardian must fill out the registration form for their child to become a member. Registration forms or scholarship forms can be picked up at any of the Youth Center/Club locations.

The Boys & Girls Club offers specific programming to children and youth based on age categories: Grades K-2 = Junior Cadet, Grades 3-5 = Cadet, Grades 6-9 = Juniors, Grades 10-12 = Seniors.

Right	Responsibility
Members have the right to fair and equal treatment.	Members are responsible for treating others fairly and equally.
Members have the right to be respected.	Members are responsible for respecting others.
Members have the right to have leaders with appropriate training.	Members are responsible for participating in training.
Members have the right to learn and play in a safe and healthy environment.	Members are responsible for keeping the Club clean and safe.
Members have the right to safe equipment.	Members are responsible for care of equipment.
Members have the right to explore opportunities for growth and development.	Members are responsible for being on time; preparing for sessions, listening, following directions and goal setting.
Members have the right to have fun.	Members are responsible for respecting the fun time of others.
Members have the right to participate in decision-making and leadership activity.	Members are responsible for participation in the decision-making process.

Program Hours*

School Year: M-F, Grades K-5 6:00-8:00, Grades 6-12 3:00-8:00
Summer: Summer hours may vary. Please see www.bgcrrv.org.

*The Club hours may change throughout the year, as determined by the Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley. Please visit our website at www.bgcrrv.org for current updates.

Boys & Girls Club Program www.bgcrrv.org

Holiday Closings*

The Clubs are closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day (4th of July), Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

*The Clubs may be closed on other days throughout the year, as determined by the Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley.

Weather Related Closings

In the event school is dismissed early, cancelled, or there is a cancellation of after-school activities due to severe weather, the Boys & Girls Club will not be open. Please make plans and discuss your severe weather plan with your child(ren).

Dress Code

Members, parents and guardians are expected to follow the Boys & Girls Club dress code at all times. Shoes must be worn at all times. Hats and caps are not worn in the Club. Appropriate attire may be required for certain activities.

The following attire may not be worn at the Club:

- See-through or mesh clothing (unless worn over other apparel)
- Garments that expose the midriff
- Halter tops and spaghetti straps
- Biking shorts or short shorts
- Garments or accessories which display emblems relating to gangs, abusive substances, sex or obscenities
- Tight fitting or revealing apparel
- Sagging pants (undergarments should not be visible)

Discipline and Conduct

If members conduct themselves in a disorderly fashion and disregard the rights and responsibilities set forth, they will be disciplined accordingly. Parents or guardians of the member will be notified immediately.

Referrals to outside organizations for assistance may be required. Appropriate disciplinary action will take place for each offense, which may include temporary suspension from the Club or loss of membership privileges.

Safe Haven: Weapons and/or other items which may cause harm to others are not permitted at any time. Everyone is expected to report any weapon or misconduct to a professional staff immediately. We reserve the right to check any bags or other items at any time if we suspect a danger to our members.

Dispensing Medication

Children requiring medication must have a **Release of Medication Form** signed by the parent to be kept on file at the Fargo Youth Center.

It is the policy of the Boys & Girls Club to limit prescribed drugs and medications taken by children during Club hours. If a child requires medication during program hours as directed by a physician, staff will administer the prescribed medication only if written instructions and authorization from the parent/guardian are provided.

Prescriptions must be current and properly labeled by the supplying pharmacist with the child's name, medication, dosage and physician's name. All medications will be stored in a safe, appropriate place with access available only to a designated staff.

Parents must provide a one week supply of medications if the medication is taken on an on-going basis during Boys & Girls Club programming hours. Please do not exceed a one week supply at a time. At the end of the week, the empty bottle will be returned to the parent for re-fill. Short-term medications, such as antibiotics, may be brought in daily.

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It is extremely important that good communication exists between parents and staff in order to ensure proper medication dispensing.

Health & Emergency Procedures

It is important that parents and guardians cooperate with the health and emergency procedures. Our regulations are designed to protect the well-being of our members.

If your child becomes ill at the Club, parents or guardians will be notified. Do not bring your child(ren) to the Club if they are ill before leaving home. This is especially important if their illness is infectious or contagious. Members who come to the Club sick will be sent home.

In case of an accident involving a member that requires medical attention, the staff will make arrangements so that proper aid is provided.

Transportation

Parents or guardians are responsible for the member's transportation to and from the Club.

Field Trips

The Boys & Girls Club provides supervised transportation to and from scheduled activities and field trips.

Spending Money

Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to give their child(ren) personal spending money if needed for Club activities, programs and/or field trips. The Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley is not responsible for any lost or stolen money.

Personal Belongings

The Boys & Girls Club is not responsible for any personal belongings that are damaged, lost, left and/or stolen at the Club.

Lost and Found

Personal belongings should be properly marked and stored in the checkroom. Articles lost or stolen are not the responsibility of the Club. Members must take home all projects and personal belongings each day. To claim an item in question, it must be described to a professional staff member at the front desk. After 30 days, all unclaimed items will be donated to a local charitable agency.

Non-Smoking and Drug-Free Environment

All facilities, properties, grounds and events are non-smoking and drug free. Alcohol, prescription/non-prescription drugs and any other substances are prohibited. Everyone is expected to report any smoking or drug use to a staff member immediately.

Telephone Use

A phone is located at the front desk. Members are asked to use the phone only to call parents or guardians. Improper use of the phone could result in a loss of membership privileges.

Five Core Program Areas

The five core program areas provide a framework for programming in the Boys & Girls Club. The Club has various programs for boys & girls who have a variety of interests and needs. Throughout the calendar year the programs listed below will be offered. Please note: Programs are subject to change at any time.

Five Core Program Areas:

- *Character & Leadership Development* empowers youth to support and influence their Club and community, to sustain meaningful relationships with others, to develop a positive self-image, to participate in the democratic process and to respect either own cultural identities as well as those of others.
- *Education & Career Development* enables youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, to apply learning to everyday situations and to embrace technology to achieve success in a career.
- *Health and Life Skills* develops in youth an understanding that positive behavior can nurture their own well being, set personal goals and help them live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

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- *The Arts* enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and an appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.
- *Sports, Fitness & Recreation* develops in youth fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, sportsmanship and social skills.

Youth Development Summary

The outcomes summarized below describe our expectations and goals for young people. Youth who enter the world with the capacities described here can become responsible citizens and leaders who are able to support themselves and live successful lives.

- **Community and Civic Involvement**—Youth have a sense of belonging to their community, family and/or group and are willing to take civic responsibility. They work closely with others to contribute to the greater good.
- **Health and Well-Being**—Youth live healthy lifestyles, take part in regular fitness activities, are able to access health care resources and engage in positive behaviors. They use sound judgment about personal safety, nutrition and avoidance of alcohol, drugs and premature sexual activity.
- **Moral Compass**—Youth have values enabling them to develop positive relationships with others. These values include honesty, a sense of justice and fairness, respect, caring and spirituality.
- **Positive Self-Identity**—Youth have a healthy self-concept, a strong belief in their own self-worth and a sense of hope about their future. They are adept at setting and attaining goals, confidently making the necessary decisions to achieve their life plans.
- **Competencies**—Youth have the knowledge, skills, strategies and attitudes necessary to have a positive foundation for success. Youth become competent by mastering tasks, demonstrating to themselves that they can do things well.

Youth Development Competence

They develop competence in the following areas:

- **Education**—Youth are proficient in basic educational disciplines and have the capacity to utilize technology. Having graduated from high school motivates them to pursue learning opportunities throughout their lives.
- **Employment**—Youth have the skills and attributes to be successful in the work force. They are motivated to constantly develop new skills and hone existing skills to maintain a competitive edge.
- **Social**—Youth are able to develop and sustain positive relationships with others.
- **Emotional**—Youth are able to recognize, reflect on and appropriately express their emotions, manage stress and cope with positive and adverse situations.
- **Cultural**—Youth have an understanding and respect for their own cultural identity and for the cultures of others; they are able to contribute in a multicultural society and demonstrate tolerance for differences among people.

Civil Rights Statement

In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint, write to:

USDA Director, Civil Rights
RM 326 W, Whitten Bldg.
14th and Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410
- or call -
Call (202) 720-5964 voice and TDD.