



**THE
CLUB**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LARIMER COUNTY

Membership Handbook

Our Mission

We provide an environment (place, people, programs) that helps young people reach their full potential.

What is a member?

Membership is open to all youth ages 6 to 18 years of age for a \$5 yearly membership fee. Membership is one year from when application is turned in. All members must renew memberships each year to remain a current member; however, new members are welcome to join any time of the year. Parents/guardians are required to fill out new membership forms in order to renew memberships.

You will receive a membership number. With that number, you sign-in and sign-out at the front desk. Members are allowed to bring a guest to the club. Guests are required to sign in at the front desk. It is your responsibility to sign-in and-out to ensure your safety in the case of an emergency.

You can help your Club by picking-up, treating the equipment and the building as if they were your own, and by encouraging your fellow Club members to do the same. It is important that if you ever feel unsafe, you report it immediately to staff. We encourage members and parents to make suggestions and share comments with staff either in person or by using our suggestions box located behind our front desk. Boys & Girls Club staff strive to continuously make improvements. This is your Club, help us take care of it and keep it safe!

What is the open-door policy?

The Club has an open-door policy, which means you can drop-in whenever you want during regular club hours. If you want to leave the Club during Club hours, you may, but you must sign-out. Once you have left the Club, the Club assumes no responsibility for your conduct outside the facility. Members are only allowed to sign-in and sign-out one time during the day, once you have left you may not return. Once you leave the Club you are expected to leave the premises. Loitering on Boys & Girls Club property is prohibited. Members are only allowed to go outside with a staff member. If you are outside without staff, it is considered trespassing, tickets will be issued.

Club Expectations

RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT THE CLUB RESPECT OTHERS

Being at the Club is a privilege, not a right. By showing respect for the Club, its staff and all other Club members, you are ensuring the building and its equipment stay in good condition, and your relationships with others stay in good condition as well.

What happens if I don't follow the rules?

Failing to abide by these expectations (i.e. fighting, stealing, destroying property, and disrespect of staff or other Club members) will result in consequences such as: loss of privileges, suspension, or even criminal prosecution. Following a suspension, members are on a probationary status, and staff may require a meeting with the parent/guardian.

When is the Club open?

Please call the Club directly for the hours of operation and check postings (i.e. front doors, voice mail) as times may vary. Staff are available to answer questions and return messages by phone before club hours; however, the doors will remain locked until we are officially open.

The Club is closed on the following days, and periodically throughout the year for staff trainings:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, the last week of summer break, Labor Day, Thanksgiving & the following Friday, December 24th & 25th

What can I do for fun?

As you come into the Club, there will be a schedule of the days' activities posted. We will also make announcements throughout the day to let you know about fun activities and programs as they begin. Activities will change hourly and are offered for different age groups. Below are some examples of activities we offer in each of our five core programming areas:

Sports, Fitness and Recreation: Basketball leagues & tournaments, floor hockey, flag football, billiards, bumper pool, foosball, board games, field trips, and more.

The Arts: Painting, pottery, crafts, dance, guitar, and choir.

Education and Career Development: Homework help, spelling, math, Ultimate Journey, book club, journal club, computer, music studios, Tech Teams, and computer activities.

Character and Leadership: Keystone Club, Torch Club, Green Team, Youth of the Month, Youth of the Year.

Health & Life Skills: SMART *Moves*, SMART Girls, Wise Guys, cooking club, Crest Cavity Free Zone, and Teen Talk.

SMART *Moves* Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's nationally acclaimed SMART *Moves* (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) prevention/education program addresses problems such as tobacco, drug, and alcohol use and premature sexual activity. Programs are age specific and only topics relevant to members' stage of development are discussed. The program uses a team approach involving Club staff, peer leaders, parents and community representatives. More than simply emphasizing a "Say No" message, the program teaches young people ages 6 to 15 how to say no by involving them in discussion and role-playing, practicing resistance and refusal skills, developing assertiveness, strengthening decision-making skills and analyzing media and peer influence. The ultimate goal: to promote abstinence from substance abuse and adolescent sexual involvement through the practice of responsible behavior.

Meals served?

Kids' Cafe is a program sponsored by *Food Bank for Larimer County* to provide a nutritious meal to every member for free. During school hours, dinner is served. During summer, breakfast and lunch are served.

How can the Club help me?

Besides being a fun place to hang out with lots of activities, the Club is also a place to learn. We offer homework help everyday, provide prevention classes, and leadership opportunities. We can help you apply for scholarships, colleges, or jobs. We will teach you to dance and encourage you to perform. Moreover, we will show you how to be a productive, responsible, and caring citizen.

As a Boys & Girls Club, we are also entitled to participate in State, Regional and National Boys & Girls Club events, such as State Education Day, Games Room Tournaments, Keystone Conferences, and Torch Club Conferences. If you are interested in joining some of these teams, ask a staff member on how to get involved.

Phone Privileges

Club members may use the telephone only to call parents for a ride or to let them know where you are. The phones are not for talking to your friends. Parents, please only call the Club to make ride arrangements with your child, not to ask if their homework got done, etc.—we cannot tie up the phone lines.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Staff's main responsibility is to ensure your child's safety. If there is a question about their rides showing up intoxicated (behaving or smelling of alcohol or other substances), authorities may be notified, and the driver will not be allowed to take the member.

The Boys & Girls Club does not support truancy (i.e. members skipping school). Please do not drop members off at the Club when they should be in school.

Parents are expected to be thorough on the membership paperwork and inform us if there is a change of address or phone numbers. For your own child's safety, we hope that you can recognize the Boys & Girls Club staff and perhaps even know us by name. Getting to know the staff will enable us to better serve your child. Communication over upcoming events and opportunities keeps both you and your child informed. We welcome parents to sign-in at the front desk and hang out at the Club with their son/daughter, playing a game of pool or shooting hoops. We encourage parents to come as guest speakers, volunteer, share your talents or hobbies, chaperone a dance, help us with special events, organize and attend parent nights, or join us on a fun field trip.