



SPRING NEWSLETTER



January - May 2026

Open the door to Great Futures



Welcome to Spring 2026 at the Club!

When a young person walks through our doors, they're not just joining an afterschool program — they're entering a comprehensive Out-of-School Time (OST) experience designed for growth, discovery, and belonging. At the Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion, we create space for connection, support, and exploration beyond the classroom. Here, youth feel safe, valued, and encouraged to grow into who they are meant to be.

This spring, our OST programs are intentionally crafted to spark curiosity, build confidence, and help members stay on track academically — all supported by trusted mentors who show up every day and genuinely care. Because at Boys & Girls Club, Great Futures Start Here.

Vermillion Needs Club Kids!

Strong kids build strong communities, and the future depends on how we invest in our youth today. In Vermillion, Club members are gaining the skills, resilience, and leadership they need to thrive. When Club kids succeed, our whole community grows stronger. Vermillion doesn't just benefit from Club kids — **Vermillion needs them!**





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Thursday, January 1

- Club **CLOSED** – New Year's Day

Friday, January 2

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Christmas Break

Monday, January 5

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Christmas Break

Tuesday, January 6

- Club **OPEN** Afterschool–6:00 PM

Monday, January 19

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – MLK Day

Friday, January 23

- Morning Program **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Traditional Club **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Academy Club **OPEN** – Regular Hours

Thursday, February 12

- Club **OPEN** 2:00–6:00 PM – Early Dismissal

Friday, February 13

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – PT Conferences

Monday, February 16

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Presidents' Day

Friday, February 27

- Morning Program **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Traditional Club **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Academy Club **OPEN** – Regular Hours

Wednesday, March 11

- Club **OPEN** 1:30–6:00 PM – Early Dismissal

Thursday, March 12 – Friday, March 13

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Spring Break

Friday, March 27

- Morning Program **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Traditional Club **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Academy Club **OPEN** – Regular Hours

Thursday, April 2

- Club **OPEN** 1:30–6:00 PM – Early Dismissal

Friday, April 3 – Monday, April 6

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Easter Break

Friday, April 24

- Morning Program **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Traditional Club **CLOSED** – Staff Training
- Academy Club **OPEN** – Regular Hour

Friday, May 15

- Last Day of School-Year Programming!

Monday, May 18 – Friday, May 22

- Club **CLOSED** – Summer Prep & Staff Training

Monday, May 25

- Club **CLOSED** – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

- Club **OPEN** 7:30 AM–6:00 PM – Summer Begins!



2026 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Because of continued support from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) Grant, the new seasonal membership fee structure does NOT apply to Vermillion's Traditional Club (3rd-12th grade) until June 2026.

What's Free Right Now? (Traditional Club)

- Traditional Club (3rd-12th grade): FREE through Spring 2026
- Morning Program (JK-12th grade): FREE through Spring 2026

Although the membership fee is FREE, all youth are still required to complete a Spring 2026 membership registration. This ensures program access, proper coverage, and accurate enrollment in our system.

👉 If your child plans to attend the Morning Program, registration is required.

- *Academy families will register for the Morning Program under the Traditional Club membership, just as they did for the Fall 2025 Morning Program.*

Vermillion Academy (JK-2nd Grade)

- Monthly Rate: \$200
- Billing: Occurs on the 20th of each month through Brightwheel

Caregiver Orientation – New Families

Caregiver Orientation for new families is held every other Tuesday at 5:00 PM.

- Upcoming dates: January 13 and January 27

For questions or to schedule a different time, please contact:

- Sarah Jessip – sjessip@greatfuturessd.org
- Sam Nelson – snelson@greatfuturessd.org

Need Help?

At the Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion, no child will be refused membership or paid program services due to inability to pay. If you need financial assistance, have questions about scholarships, or would like help with payment options, please contact:

✉️ scholarships@greatfuturessd.org
☎️ 605-692-3333 ext. 151

Enroll or Renew Your Membership

Registration Opens January 5

SCAN
ME!



Enrollment Support Team

Need assistance with MyClubHub or new memberships? Your Vermillion team is here to support you, regardless of your need:

JK-2nd: Sarah Jessip, Academy Director

✉️ sjessip@greatfuturessd.org
☎️ 605-692-3333 ext. 702

3rd-12th: Sam Nelson, Traditional Club Director

✉️ snelson@greatfuturessd.org
☎️ 605-672-2028 ext 706

Or simply ask at the front desk — we're happy to help!



HELLO
SPRING



Academy Program (JK–2nd Grade)

Our Academy Program provides licensed, high-quality care for JK–2nd grade members, offering structured routines, hands-on activities, and support from caring staff every afternoon. This program helps build a strong foundation for learning, social-emotional growth, and daily success.

Program Details

- **Cost:** \$200/month
- **Hours:** After school until 6:00 PM



Traditional Club (3rd–12th Grade)

A place to belong, learn, and grow. The Traditional Club provides a safe, welcoming environment where youth can build confidence, explore interests, and develop leadership skills.

Program Details

- **Elementary Club:** Grades 3–5
- **Teen Club:** Grades 6–12
- **Cost:** **FREE** through June 2026 (funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant)
- **Hours:** After school until 6:00 PM



Morning Program (JK–12th Grade)

NEW!

The Morning Program provides a safe, welcoming start to the day for enrolled JK–12th grade members.

Program Details

- **Hours:** 6:00–7:45 AM
- **Transportation:** Members are transported by the Club to their schools in time for breakfast. Please drop off by 7:30 AM.
- **Morning Snack:** Provided daily
- **Cost:** **FREE** for all members
- **Registration:** Required through the Caregiver Portal (MyClubHub)

The Morning Program remains open on weather-related late start days to support families and ensure each child has a safe, positive beginning to their school day.



Tutor Club & Power Hour (JK–12th)

Tutor Club helps students stay on track with homework, academic goals, and skill-building—supported daily by dedicated Club staff.

- Registration required through Caregiver Portal (MyClubHub)

Power Hour is open to all JK–12th grade members and provides a quiet, structured space for homework, reading, and independent study each afternoon.

- No registration required

Cost: Free through June 2026

Funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) Grant

Together, these programs help Vermillion youth build strong study habits, boost confidence, and stay prepared for school each day.



MEALS & SNACKS

Healthy food helps kids stay energized, focused, and ready for Great Futures! All meals and snacks are **FREE** for members.

Morning Program

- A morning snack is served at the Club, and breakfast is provided once members arrive at their school.

Afterschool Program

- All members enjoy a free snack every day, followed by a healthy, light dinner at 5:15 PM — ensuring every child has a nutritious meal before heading home.

Full Days (No-School & Weather-Related Days)

- A morning snack, hot lunch, afternoon snack, and warm dinner are provided.
- Members are also welcome to bring their own nut- and banana-free sack lunch if they prefer.
- Please note: Refrigerator and microwave access are not available, so lunches should not require heating or refrigeration.

🚫 Allergy Alert: No Bananas or Nuts, PLEASE!

For the safety of all members, please do not send bananas or foods containing bananas or nuts to the Club. Some members have severe allergies, and your cooperation helps us keep everyone safe and healthy. Thank you for your understanding!



TRANSPORTATION

After-School Transportation to the Club

- **Vermillion Elementary & Middle School Members:** Ride one of two school district buses straight to the Club. *Please remind your child's teacher about their after-school plans.*
- **Vermillion High School Members:** Take the district bus to the middle school. From there, it's just a short walk to the Club!
- **St. Agnes Members:** The Club provides daily pick-up at 3:20 PM and brings members to the Club.
 - St. Agnes families — please let the Club know if your child will not need transportation from St. Agnes to the Club on any given day. Your communication helps us keep all members safe and accounted for. Thank you!

Please note: We are no longer providing daily transportation after tutoring.



Seasonal Reminder

No matter the forecast, the Club is here to support your family.

- **Snow Day Hours:** Open from 7:30 AM–6:00 PM.
- **Early School Release (weather-related):** The Club opens immediately after school and remains open until 6:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.
- **Late Start:** Our Morning Program stays open until school begins. Morning Program continues as normal during delayed starts.
- **School Canceled After Morning Drop-Off:** The Club will open immediately for full-day programming. No need to return for pickup —we've got you covered!

For the most up-to-date weather announcements, follow us on Facebook or check your email — we'll keep you informed every step of the way.



Phone Policy

- 3rd–5th graders may use phones only during designated times:
 - School days: 3:30–4:00 PM
 - Full days: 9:00–9:30 AM & 4:00–4:30 PM
- To reach your child, please call the Club at 605-692-3333 ext. 701 (staff will supervise calls).
- 🚫 Facebook, Snapchat & camera use are not allowed.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- Parents/guardians must come inside for drop-off and pick-up.
- If arriving during after-school drop-off, please wait outside until youth are scanned in. If you cannot wait, consider school pick-up instead.



HOMEWORK HELP



Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion is proud to offer **Tutor Club** and **Power Hour**—two academic support programs designed to help students stay confident, prepared, and successful throughout the school year.

Both programs are provided at no cost to families thanks to funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) Grant. Tutor Club provides a deeper level of academic connection between our Tutor Club staff, families, school partners, and members.

Each afternoon, enrolled students report directly to their designated **Tutor Club** room to focus on homework completion, academic goals, and skill-building with dedicated support.

- **Enrollment is required through MyClubHub.**



Power Hour is open to all JK–12th grade members every day and offers a structured, quiet space for homework, reading, and independent study. Members who are not enrolled in Tutor Club may still participate in Power Hour as an additional academic support option. Thanks to the support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, our Vermillion youth receive high-quality academic support, strong school-to-club connection, and individualized encouragement—all at no cost to families.

Together, these programs ensure students have the time, tools, and confidence they need to build strong study habits and succeed both in and out of the classroom.



BEHAVIOR POLICY

At Boys & Girls Club, we want all members to feel safe, respected, and supported. To help with this, we use a point system to address behavior concerns in a fair and consistent way:

- **Consequence Form (1 point):** For smaller behavior issues.
- **Incident Report (2 points):** For more serious concerns (such as hurting others, threats, theft, or possession of substances).
- **Daily Rule:** 3 points in one day = member must be picked up or stay home the next day.
- **Weekly Rule:** 5 points in one week = member must be picked up and take at least one day off.
- Additional steps may include short suspensions for more serious actions (such as harming staff, damaging property, or repeated issues). Points reset weekly, and our team reviews each situation carefully.

This system helps members learn accountability while giving them the chance to grow and improve. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure a safe and positive Club experience for all kids!



TOYS & ITEMS FROM HOME

Leave personal toys and items at home — our Clubs provide plenty of fun activities! The Club is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.

Please note: We do our best to stick to all planned schedules. Occasionally, dates or activities may shift to better serve the needs of our kids and families. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!

SPRING IMPACT PROGRAMS

JOIN US Join us for **FREE**, age-appropriate programs that build confidence, curiosity, and healthy habits in a safe and supportive environment.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Play Smart (JK–2nd Grade)

Mondays | 3:20–3:45 PM

Play Smart introduces early learners to healthy habits through age-appropriate activities that support:

- Mind: Making good choices and understanding emotions
- Body: Staying active with simple fitness games
- Soul: Building friendships, teamwork, and cooperation

Reading Buddies

Wednesdays | 5:00–5:30 PM

Reading Buddies helps young readers build confidence and a love for books. Members are paired with staff or older Club members to practice fluency, strengthen comprehension, and celebrate progress — making reading positive, engaging, and rewarding.

Pokémon Club (JK–2nd Grade)

Fridays | 4:00–4:30 PM

Pokémon Club gives young members a fun way to build character and social skills. Through trading cards, teamwork, and structured play, children practice respect, communication, fairness, and decision-making — all while having fun with friends.



Academy Reminders:

Full Days

- Sign up on the Caregiver Portal (MCH).
 - \$25 per child
- If your child is bringing a sack lunch, please make sure it is nut-free and banana-free on all full days to help keep all members safe.

Attendance

- If your child will be absent from the Academy on any day, please call Sarah Jessip, Academy Director, at 605-692-3333 ext. 702.

Billing

- Billing occurs on the 20th of each month through Brightwheel.
- Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion Academy is not able to offer prorated monthly fees at this time.

SIGN UP →



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS

- Sign-up is required for all field trips and fee-based activities unless otherwise noted.
- Register through the Caregiver Portal (MCH) or by scanning the provided QR code.
- **Activities open for registration one week before each event.**
 - Activity fees help us cover staffing, transportation, supplies, and admission costs needed to make activities possible.

FIELD TRIPS

W.H. Over Museum

January 2 | 11:45 AM–2:00 PM | FREE

Members will explore exhibits featuring South Dakota's history, wildlife, and culture. This hands-on experience encourages curiosity, learning, and appreciation for our local community's heritage.

USD DakotaDome Tour

February 16 | 11:45 AM–2:00 PM | FREE

A behind-the-scenes experience inside the USD DakotaDome. Members will learn what it takes to be a student-athlete, explore the facility, and develop a better understanding of teamwork, dedication, and school spirit.

Sanford Health Tour

March 12 | 11:45 AM–2:00 PM | FREE

Members will tour Sanford Health and get an inside look at how healthcare professionals support our community. This visit introduces early learners to teamwork, problem-solving, and careers in helping others.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT: Kind Hearts, Connected Families

Tuesday, February 10 | 6:00–7:00 PM | FREE!
Location: Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion

Families are invited to join us for an evening celebrating friendship, kindness, and connection. **Enjoy bounce houses, crafts, games, and a family meal.** It's a great opportunity to spend quality time together and experience the joy your child has at the Club.

FEE BASED ACTIVITIES

Snazzy Hands & Heads Camp

January 5 | 12:00–1:00 PM | \$6

Members will stay warm and creative by decorating their own winter gloves or hats. This hands-on activity encourages self-expression and brings a fun, cozy start to the new year.

Movie & Cotton Candy Day

January 19 | 12:00–2:00 PM | \$2

A relaxed and fun afternoon at the Club. Members will enjoy a movie on the projector screen and fresh cotton candy — the perfect way to unwind on a no-school day.

Crafty Blossoms Camp

February 13 | 12:00–1:00 PM | \$6

Members will create handmade paper flowers and decorate vases to brighten the season. Each child will bring home their finished project — a thoughtful, colorful keepsake to share with family.

Spring Into Spring Camp

March 13 | 12:00–1:00 PM | \$2

Members will plant flowers in the Club's garden beds and learn about caring for plants. This seasonal activity helps children build responsibility, curiosity, and pride in their Club environment.

Mini Egg Hunt & Picnic

April 3 | 10:30 AM–1:00 PM

FREE | No Registration Required

A fun spring celebration featuring a Club egg hunt, outdoor games, and a seasonal snack. Weather permitting, members will enjoy a picnic lunch outside.

Messy Art Monday

April 6 | 10:30–11:30 AM

FREE | No Registration Required

Members will explore creativity through messy, sensory-friendly art experiences like finger painting, shaving cream art, and more. A perfect opportunity for young artists to experiment and have fun.



SPRING IMPACT PROGRAMS

JOIN US for FREE Impact Programs. Our impact programs support academic growth, healthy habits, leadership development, and future readiness — all in a safe, supportive Club environment.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Mindfulness Mondays

(Elementary & Teens)

Mondays | 4:00–4:30 PM



Members begin the week with tools that promote calm and focus. Mindfulness Mondays include breathing exercises, stretching, gratitude practices, and guided discussions that help youth manage emotions, reduce stress, and build self-awareness.

Triple Play

(3rd–5th Grade)

Tuesdays | 4:00–4:30 PM



Triple Play helps members build healthy habits through movement, nutrition education, and positive relationships. Children stay active through games and sports, explore how good nutrition fuels their bodies, and strengthen teamwork and confidence.

keepin' It REAL (Teens)

Mondays | 4:00–5:00 PM



This life-skills program provides a safe space for teens to talk, learn, and grow. Through real-life discussions and interactive activities, teens build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and learn to make healthy, responsible choices.

Supported through the Opioid Settlement.

Culinary Club (Teens)

Thursdays | 3:30–4:00 PM



Teens learn the basics of healthy, affordable cooking through hands-on lessons. Culinary Club encourages independence, responsibility, and confidence as members prepare simple meals and snacks they can recreate at home.

Great Futures:

Career & Life Readiness (Teens)



Thursdays | 5:00–5:30 PM

Great Futures exposes teens to a variety of career paths and essential life skills. Through community partnerships, guest speakers, and hands-on experiences, members explore local career opportunities — from college to trades — while building leadership, confidence, and independence.



SIGN UP →



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS

- Sign-up is required for all field trips and fee-based activities unless otherwise noted.
- Register through the Caregiver Portal (MCH) or by scanning the provided QR code.
- **Activities open for registration one week before each event.**
 - Activity fees help us cover staffing, transportation, supplies, and admission costs needed to make activities possible.

FEE BASED ACTIVITIES

Snazzy Hands & Heads Camp

January 5 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$6

Members will decorate winter gloves or hats in this fun, creative workshop.

Registration opens December 29.

Crafty Blossoms Camp

February 13 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$6

Members will create paper flowers and decorated vases to take home.

Registration opens February 6.

Spring Camp

March 12 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$10

Members will make spring-themed cookie bouquets and learn basic decorating skills.

Registration opens March 5.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA Art Camp

April 3 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$8

A spring creativity session where members design and decorate egg-themed art projects.

Registration opens March 27.

STEM Into Spring Camp

April 6 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$8

A hands-on STEM activity exploring spring weather, including edible “cloud” experiments.

Registration opens March 30.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT: Kind Hearts, Connected Families

Tuesday, February 10 | 6:00–7:00 PM | FREE
Location: Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion

FIELD TRIPS

USD Rock Climbing Wall (3rd–5th Grade)

January 2 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$10

Members will challenge themselves on the USD climbing wall, building confidence, balance, and teamwork.

Registration opens December 26.

USD Esports Facility Visit (3rd–5th Grade)

February 16 | 1:00–3:00 PM | Cost: TBD

Members will explore competitive gaming, teamwork, and technology in USD's Esports arena.

Registration opens February 9.

USD Esports Facility Visit (Teens)

January 2 | 1:00–3:00 PM | Cost: TBD

Teens will visit USD's Esports facility for hands-on gameplay and an introduction to teamwork, strategy, and technology.

Registration opens December 26.

USD Rock Climbing Wall (Teens)

February 16 | 1:00–3:00 PM | Cost: TBD

Teens will test their strength and skill at the USD climbing wall while building teamwork and confidence.

Registration opens February 9.

Yankton Bowl (All Grades)

January 19 | 1:00–3:00 PM | \$15

A fun afternoon of bowling with friends, teamwork, and friendly competition.

Registration opens January 12.

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (All Grades)

March 13 | 1:00–3:00 PM

FREE | No Registration Required

All grades are invited to join a fast-paced 3-on-3 tournament. Multiple games run at once using bracket play — a high-energy event focused on teamwork and sportsmanship.

Families are invited to join us for a **FREE** evening celebrating friendship, kindness, and connection. **Enjoy bounce houses, crafts, games, and a family meal.** It's a great opportunity to spend quality time together and experience the joy your child has at the Club.