



Youth Safety is Our Number One Priority

At Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley, there is no greater priority than the safety of our youth members. Our professional staff and Board of Directors are committed to a continuous improvement cycle to provide the safest environment possible. We work every day to create a safe, fun environment, so kids can have every opportunity to be successful in life.

Examples include:

Staff

All staff members are thoroughly screened, including initial and ongoing background checks, and highly trained. Among the training requirements are First Aid and CPR, Basic Childcare Certification, positive behavior supports, de-escalation, food safety and sanitation, as well as a minimum of 13-hours of continued education annually.

Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are composed and followed with youth safety as the guiding factor. Programs are continually observed and regularly inspected by internal and external assessors.

Facilities & Transportation

All facilities and vehicles receive regular inspections, and are routinely maintained.

Technology

External websites are blocked on devices available to youth. Club Members and their parents must be aware of the appropriateness of communications when using Club or personally owned devices, and are required to sign BGCRRV's *Technology Use Policy*. Inappropriate communication is prohibited in any public messages, private messages, and material posted online by members

We do not tolerate inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child abuse or misconduct. From strict adherence to policies and guidelines within Club facilities and staffing structure, to equipping young people with the critical thinking and social-emotional skills to make healthy, safe choices, ensuring Club members are safe is the first step to their success.

For the hundreds of young people who enter the doors of our Clubs each day, the space and youth development professionals at our Clubs offer safe, inclusive spaces, and experiences that empower members' learning and growth.

Data shows our approach works:

- Club teens are more likely to abstain from health-risk behaviors like alcohol and smoking than their peers nationally.*
- Clubs provide safety, mentorship and a sense of community during the critical out-of-school hours. 54% of Club alumni said the Club "saved my life."**
- Clubs help build a sense of civic responsibility and leadership. In fact, 83% of Club members believe they can make a difference in their communities and 89% stand up for what they think is right.*



"The National Children's Advocacy Center was the first Child Advocacy Center in the world, and there is nothing more important to us than the safety of youth. In this capacity, I have proudly served on Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Child & Club Safety Task Force since 2012 and seen firsthand the organization's investment in safety and commitment to strong youth protection policies, immediate reporting and long-term strategy, as well as their dedication each day to creating a safe and supportive home-away-from-home for kids."

– Chris Newlin, MS LPC, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center

*2018 National Youth Outcomes Report

**2015 Harris Interactive survey of Club alumni

