

# Welcome



Welcome to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. We provide a safe place for local youth to learn, play and grow into their full potential while developing ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, and experiencing life-enhancing programs that help them excel in school, become leaders, live healthy lifestyles and plan for success after high school graduation.

We offer youth ages 6-18 years old the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities that promote their psychological, social and physical well-being. All of our Clubs are actively involved in promoting successful character development through the Youth Development Strategy. Our organization's programs and services promote and enhance the development of youth by instilling:

- A Sense of Competence—the feeling there is something that each person can do well;
- A Sense of Belonging—a setting where young people know they “fit” and are accepted;
- A Sense of Usefulness—the opportunity to do something of value for other people; and
- A Sense of Power or Influence—a chance to be heard and to influence decisions.

When the Youth Development Strategy is fully implemented, youth's self-esteem is enhanced and an environment is created that helps girls and boys achieve their full potential.

# Mission, Vision & History

## Our Mission:

Since 1970, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties has strived to fulfill our mission to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

## Our Vision:

Our vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

## Our History:

A group of individuals who were concerned about the youth in Sarasota met at the Captain's Table restaurant to discuss how to improve the quality of life for our children in 1965. Initially, there were only two or three people involved, but within weeks, the group had grown considerably and decided to start a Boys Club. During the next five years, the group expanded to include over 50 individuals, and the vision of a few became a reality. The youth of Sarasota were the beneficiaries. What started as a dream in 1965 is an integral part of the community now. All efforts to grow the Clubs to six locations serving thousands of youth have been made possible by major donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and civic organizations.

Thousands of boys and girls have walked through the Clubs since our organization first opened in 1970. Each has walked back into the community as a more productive and enriched citizen. Each is more self-reliant, has more self-confidence and adjusts more easily to adult society because the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County was the positive place for them to grow.

The primary goal of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties is to provide a safe, structured, and supervised environment where children between the ages of 6 and 18 years old can learn, play, and grow after school and during the summer. During the course of one year, our organization will impact thousands of lives of young people throughout Sarasota and DeSoto Counties, exposing them to new opportunities to enrich their personal academic and social spheres. We offer a wide variety of educational and recreational opportunities for the children we serve and touch on five core disciplines including Character and Leadership Development, Education and Career Development, Health and Life Skills, the Arts, and Sports, Fitness, and Recreation.

# Locations, Staff & Hours

## Louis and Gloria Flanzer Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Sofia Gilot
- Program Director: Pathrience Shaw
- Address: 18 School Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266
- Phone: 863-884-9927
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m., M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Chris Masucci
- Program Director: Travis McDowell
- Address: 6851 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287
- Phone: 941-423-4405
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m. M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Wayne Ard
- Program Director: Hannah Vicars
- Address: 3100 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL 34237
- Phone: 941-366-7940
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m. M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Newtown Estates Park Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Barbara Bane
- Program Director: Vanita Moses
- Address: 2800 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234
- Phone: 941-358-2878
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m. M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Robert and Joan Lee Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Michael Stevens
- Program Director: Sharon Wilson
- Address: 920 Gulf Coast Boulevard, Venice, FL 34285
- Phone: 941-485-7050
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m. M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Roy McBean Boys & Girls Club

- Club Director: Nate Brown
- Program Director: Venesha Graham
- Address: 1790 21st St., Sarasota, FL 34234
- Phone: 941-953-9549
- Summer Program: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F
- School-Year Program: After School to 6 p.m. M-F
- When the Club is open for full days during the school year, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please Note: All of our staff are selected because of their experience, education and qualifications. Most importantly, all of our team members are dedicated to providing your child(ren) with positive and memorable experiences and are committed to the Youth Development Strategies and mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. All personnel working at our Clubs are screened to ensure no conviction of, admission to, or evidence of, acts of child abuse, molestation or neglect and drug or alcohol abuse. We run local, state and national background screenings, as well as, check the national sex offender website for all staff that are employed with us. We are a drug free workplace.

# Parent Responsibilities

Parents play a key role in providing quality programs and services. Open communication and positive relations between the parents and staff members is vital. Parental responsibilities to ensure a successful program include:

- Keep the Club informed of any changes in work or home phone numbers, data changes for emergency contact information and any other changes or family events that could affect the youth while at the Club.
- Ensure that your child brings his/her Boys & Girls Club card every day. This is critical for your child's safety. Please sign your child out when you pick up. A valid picture I.D is required when checking your child out. It is vital that you or any other authorized person that is picking your child up understand this policy. We do this for the safety of your child.
- You must come in to pick up your child. We will not call your child to the front until you arrive in our building and have been identified by our staff. We also cannot accept pick up changes over the phone. If you want to add or drop someone from your pick-up list, this must be written, signed and brought to the Club.
- Please pick up your child on time. If there is an emergency we are understanding. However, excessive lateness may affect your child's membership. If you know you are going to be late, please call the Club to make the staff aware of your situation. Late fees are as follows: \$5 for the first 15 minutes you are late and \$1 for every minute after that. Any late fees not paid may affect your child's membership. If you do not pick up your child on time and we have tried unsuccessfully to reach all emergency contacts, we will be forced to contact the Police Department. We do this as a last resort as this can be traumatic for the children.
- In the event that your child becomes sick or is disruptive to Club activities, our staff will contact you and instruct you to pick up your child. We ask that you do this in a timely manner. We will only contact you if we feel it is in your child's best interest to go home. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy.
- Please get to know the Directors and your child's group counselor. Our staff wants to make your child's experience at the Club as positive as possible and getting to know our parents is very helpful. Please direct all questions concerning your child to the Club Director. If after you have spoken to the Club Director and you still have concerns, please contact our Administration Office at 941-366-3911.
- Ensure that your payments are up to date and paid in a timely manner. Please let our staff know of any circumstances that are prohibiting you from making payments. We are willing to work with our families if we are aware of the situation.
- If your child will no longer be riding the bus, please call our office to update us.
- Have your child leave all personal items at home. These items include electronic devices, toys, games, etc. We will not be held responsible for the loss or theft of these items if brought to the Club.
- Encourage your child to check in their book bag. They will be put in a cubby for safety. This will cut down on lost or misplaced backpacks.

# 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 participants and will also contribute in creating a fun, positive and memorable experience at the Club. The three rules are:

1. Have respect for yourself and other members.
2. Have respect for all Club property and equipment.
3. Have respect for all staff and volunteers.

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Swearing
- Verbal abuse
- Fighting or any other form of physical abuse
- Use or possession of controlled substances, weapons or any tobacco product is strictly prohibited.

All Boys & Girls Clubs members should adhere to the following dress code:

- Clothing shall be worn as they are designed - pants secure at the waist, belts buckled, no underwear as outerwear, no underwear exposed, etc.
- Clothing that is too tight or revealing when standing, bending, sitting or moving is unacceptable.
- Sexually implicit or explicit clothing, bikini and tank tops and spandex clothing (kinds of clothing usually worn at beaches and while engaging in recreational activities) are not appropriate.
- Garments and/or jewelry that display or suggest drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, sex or vulgar-related wording/graphics or may tend to provoke violence or disruptions shall not be worn.
- Gang paraphernalia, clothing, jewelry, tattoos or other insignias that display, suggest, provoke or may tend to provoke violence or disruptions are not allowed.
- Footwear must be worn at all times.

# Discipline Procedures

Our staff works to prevent negative behavior by providing activities that are engaging, fun and foster positive moral values. In the event that a youth displays undesirable actions, Club staff have been directed to take the following steps:

## 1st Offense: Time Out.

The child will be told what they have done wrong, how to improve that behavior in the future, and how long they will be in time out. The length of an appropriate time out is one minute for however old the child is (i.e. 6 years old= 6 minutes).

## 2nd Offense: Reminder with Privilege Revoked

The child will be reminded what they have done wrong and how to improve that behavior. The child will also have a privilege taken away.

## 3rd Offense: Referral

A referral will be written and one of the Directors will speak to the child. This referral will be given to the parent.

Note: If a member hurts another child, uses foul language, damages property, or any other serious offense, a referral will be written and the child will be taken to see one of the Directors even if it is the first offense.

The Club Director will use their judgment to determine the severity of the disciplinary issue. The Director has the right to suspend or expel a member from the Club whenever they feel the action warrants this type of discipline.

# Parent Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
have read the parent handbook and agree to the terms and conditions outlined within.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Thank you!

We look forward to providing your child with high-quality programs and services that will help him/her excel in school, become a leader, live a healthy lifestyle and create a plan for success after high school graduation. For more information about the opportunities that are available for our Club members, please visit our website at [bgcsdc.org](http://bgcsdc.org).

You can also stay informed of all Club news by following us on Facebook at [facebook.com/BGCSDC](https://facebook.com/BGCSDC).