



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NEW ROCHELLE

bgcncr.org



OFFERING SAFE SPACES

Ensuring child safety is fundamental to our mission and we work every day to create a safe, inclusive, and enriching environment to provide youth with opportunities to be successful in life. We have no tolerance for inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child sexual abuse or misconduct, and we put our resources behind this standard.

Culture of Safety

Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle continually updates robust safety policies, programs, and training for staff and volunteers to support child safety and protect young people from threats in our society. These resources include, but are not limited to, an annual 15 hours of safety training; mandatory fingerprinting and background screenings; and annual safety committee walkthrough of each site.

Safety Policies

We maintain comprehensive safety policies to protect youth including, but not limited to, policies on supervision, transportation, communications, and prohibition of one-on-one contact.

24-Hour, Toll-Free Child Safety Hotline

We encourage all staff, members, and families to report any incident or situation they feel is unsafe. Through our national partnership with Praesidium, one of the nation's leading safety experts, our members and staff have access to a confidential, 24-hour, toll-free child safety hotline at 866-607-SAFE or SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com.

Mandatory Background Checks

Mandatory criminal background checks are required upon hire and annually for every staff and board member at Boys & Girls Club of New

Rochelle. Criminal background checks also are required for all volunteers who have direct, repetitive contact with youth. In addition, all potential employees and volunteers are run through the National Sex Offender Registry.

Required Immediate Reporting

All staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and required to report any critical incident/safety concern to local authorities immediately. We are also required to report any critical incident to Boys & Girls Clubs of America within 24 hours.

Mandatory Annual Safety Assessments

We employ a multi-tiered safety assessment approach to guide continual improvements to safety at our school sites and clubhouses.

Safety Trainings

We participate in a myriad of child safety trainings via online courses, seminars, conferences, and webinars. The club also engages leading third-party safety experts for guidance on policies and approaches, including Praesidium, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the National Children's Advocacy Center.

Safety Committee

Our dedicated, board-led safety committee provides input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies.

Mandatory Employee References

Any employee interested in moving to another club site must obtain a reference from his or her previous club, even if the clubs are within the same community.

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Compliance With State And Local Laws

We comply with all federal, state, and local safety laws, including those impacting our facilities and vehicles.

Safety Partnerships

Nationally, Boys & Girls Clubs of America works with leading experts in the areas of safety, security, and technology to develop state-of-the-art solutions at its clubs. Partners include National Child Safety Advisory Task Force, consisting of leading experts and organizations; Blue Ribbon Task Force, composed of local club leaders who provide input on safety direction and key initiatives; Mental Health First Aid, a national program that teaches skills to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse; and Crisis Text Line, a confidential text message service for youth in times of crisis.

Continued Commitment

In 2020, Boys & Girls Club organizations voted to adopt additional safety measures to further improve safety within our clubs. Though many of these practices were already commonplace across our movement, this vote made them mandatory for all clubs. They include more stringent reference and background checks, enhanced safety committee requirements, and stronger communication of key safety resources and information, among others. Further, in July 2021, local clubs voted in record number to adopt additional membership requirements to further enhance child safety, implementing recommendations from RAINN and demonstrating a continued commitment to keeping kids safe.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America also has advocated for passage of the U.S. PROTECT Act to improve background screening systems and access, and has partnered with the FBI, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and Centers for Disease Control to support development of safety practices to benefit all youth-serving organizations.

Our young people deserve nothing less than a constant focus on their safety and firm commitment to protect every child and teen entrusted to our care. To learn more about our national safety policies and actions, please visit Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Child Safety webpage.