

The **Positive Place For Kids**



Volunteer Information

Mission Statement: The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield is to help youth from all backgrounds, with special concern for those from disadvantaged circumstances, develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders.

Purpose of the Organization: The purpose of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield is to create opportunities for youth in their very own place. Throughout its history, the Boys & Girls Clubs have focused on meeting the needs of children as they grow to young adults. The Club helps them to help themselves, to realize their potential for development and improvement, and to become responsible citizens with the skills necessary for living.

History of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield: The Springfield Boys Club had its beginning on November 4, 1938. Mrs. Jennie Lincoln, wife of Juvenile Judge A.W. Lincoln, got the idea of a "Club for Boys" from hearing her husband tell of the need of such an organization to help youngsters with special problems. She discussed her thoughts with members of the Commercial Street Business Men's Club and that group agreed to allow her to use the basement from of the Community Building, located at 219 E. Commercial, for a place to conduct the program without charge and with free utilities. This facility was used for the next 11 years, officially named the "North Side Boys Club." The Women's Auxiliary was formed with the purpose to raise money to arrange programs for the Boys Club in 1939. Early in 1940, Mrs. Lincoln visited the National Headquarters of Boys Clubs of America in New York City. She got the Springfield Club affiliated with the national organization in 1946. When the Sertoma Club was chartered in Springfield in 1941, Mrs. Lincoln heard it was looking for sponsorship. They soon took over responsibility as Mrs. Lincoln's health was failing. The name was changed to "Springfield Boys Club, Inc." In 1949 the Boys & Girls Club at 1300 Boonville was opened and later named the "Bill Henderson" Boys & Girls Club. It was named after Bill Henderson, the Executive Director of the Clubs from 1947-1983. In 1975 the "Musgrave" Boys & Girls Club opened at 720 S. Park street. It was known as the "Westside Boys Club." In 1991 the Boys Clubs of America merged with the Girls Clubs, thus inheriting the Kynion Girls Club on Division and the Mellers West Side Girls Club on Harrison. In 2003 the Kynion Boys & Girls club outgrew its building on Division and a 33,000 square foot "Stalnaker" Boys & Girls Club across the street on Fremont and Division was built. This Unit was named after Bill Stalnaker, the Executive Director from 1983-2002.

What is a volunteer? A volunteer is an individual who provides a service for Club members, either directly or indirectly, without compensation. Volunteers are an integral part of the Boys & Girls Clubs and have made tremendous impacts in the quality of the programming we are able to provide to young people. Many Club members continue to ask about volunteers and mentors that have long since graduated from college, moved away or made other transitions in their lives. Regardless of the length of time a volunteer serves at the Clubs, s/he has the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of members that will long outlast the actual time s/he spent in the building. Volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club means using your time and energy to leave a legacy and *change lives*.

How can I become a volunteer at the Clubs? Anyone over the age of 18 can become a volunteer at one of our three Springfield Boys & Girls Clubs. You can begin by calling **Cindy Dodson at 862-9249 ext. 104**. She is located in the Administrative offices at 1410 N. Fremont, on the corner of Division and Fremont.

After the first contact, a meeting will be set up to go over Volunteer responsibilities, job description and to fill out a Volunteer Interest Survey. This will best let us know what you are interested in doing at the Clubs. We will also answer any questions you have at that time as well as take you on a tour of a Club. **Long term Volunteers**, or anyone that anticipates completing over 20 hours of Volunteer work, (typically someone that is not just doing a school project), will be required to do a drug screen and a criminal background check. They will be unable to begin until the results have been received.

What would I be doing as a volunteer? There are many things a person or organization can do to help at a Club. We most often have people spend time in different “areas” of the club. The areas of the club are as follows: **gym** (gross motor activities/sports), **arts/crafts room** (various art projects), **dance/fitness room** (tap, jazz, ballet, hip/hop classes), **music room** (various instrument lessons, choir), **learning center** (homework help, computers, Spanish classes, science clubs etc.), **Game room** (pool, air hockey, bumper pool, ping pong etc.), **technology lab** (computers, web experience/design, educational games), **teen center** (a separate space just for teens with computers, game tables, t.v. and a place for doing homework).

A volunteer may also like to come in to be a guest speaker, run a program of their own such as a foreign language or sewing or help with a **group club**. We have group clubs for all ages on various topics such as drug & alcohol prevention, goal setting, peer pressure, getting ready for college etc.

Sometimes a large group wants to come in and spread out to help in the areas or do a specific project with the kids, such as a basketball tournament or a craft project. This is also encouraged. Often individuals of this group want to come back and continue their volunteer work.

Program hours: Our Clubs are open M,W,TH,F 3:30-8:00pm and Tuesdays 3:30-6. Sertoma Club closes at 7 instead of 8 on MWTThF, as they only serve elementary age children.

Locations: The Musgrave Unit is located at 720 S. Park, 869-8211; the Henderson Unit at 835 W. Calhoun, 869-4111 and the Stalnaker Unit at 1410 N. Fremont, 865-2821. The Sertoma Clubs is at 2524 S. Golden. 523-3880

Code of Ethics: Each volunteer must adhere to Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield Code of Ethics. Each volunteer must:

- Represent the best interest of all youths served by this organization.
- Focus ones efforts on the mission of the organization.
- Approach all issues with an open mind and be prepared to make the best decision possible
- Do nothing to violate the trust of employees, volunteers or those served.
- Keep confidential information confidential.

A volunteer must refrain from the following:

- Drug use
- Smoking on Club property
- Improper conduct with members
- Foul language
- Horse play
- Picking up children/having them on your lap
- **Negative/inappropriate comments**
- Disregard for rules and policies
- Giving or lending money to members
- Providing transportation to members
- **Talking/texting on cell phone**

Dress Code: Volunteers are allowed to dress comfortably in jeans/casual clothing. Please refrain from wearing any negative slogans, short shorts, halters, and **HATS**. Wear jewelry at your own discretion,

particularly when volunteering in the gym. The Boys & Girls Clubs bear no responsibility for the loss of property of volunteers or staff members.