

Boys & Girls Club of the Big Country Parent Handbook (revised May 2025)

Mission Statement

The Boys & Girls Club of the Big Country exists to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Core Services

- **Safe Environment:** A safe, supervised space for youth after school and during the summer.
 - **Academic Support:** Homework help, tutoring, and access to learning tools and technology.
 - **Healthy Lifestyles:** Programs promoting physical fitness, nutrition, and mental well-being.
 - **Character and Leadership Development:** Opportunities for youth to build self-confidence, serve others, and develop leadership skills.
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Core Programming Areas

1. **Academic Success** – Programs that support education, such as Power Hour (homework help), STEM activities, and literacy enrichment.
 2. **Good Character & Citizenship** – Programs like Torch Club and Keystone Club that foster leadership and community service.
 3. **Healthy Lifestyles** – Activities like Triple Play (mind, body, and soul health), sports leagues, and wellness education.
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Transportation Policies

- The Club may offer transportation from select schools to the Club facility.
 - Members must be registered for transportation and follow all behavior guidelines while riding.
 - Repeated violations of bus rules may result in suspension of transportation privileges.
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Disciplinary Guidelines and Procedures

- The Club operates on a Respect & Responsibility model.
 - Members are expected to uphold the values of the Club both during and outside of official Club hours.
 - Minor infractions will be addressed with verbal warnings or temporary time-outs.
 - Continued behavior issues will result in written incident reports and parent conferences.
 - Serious infractions (e.g., physical aggression, bullying, vandalism) may result in suspension or expulsion.
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Policy for Member Suspension

- Suspension may be issued for major rule violations or repeated misconduct.
 - Suspensions will be communicated to parents in writing with a description of the incident.
 - The length of suspension is determined by the severity of the behavior and prior history.
 - Reinstatement may require a meeting with the parent/guardian and Club leadership.
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Club Member Rules

1. Respect staff, peers, and property at all times.
 2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
 3. Use appropriate language and behavior.
 4. Stay in designated Club areas.
 5. Participate positively in programs and activities.
 6. No fighting, bullying, or disrespectful behavior.
 7. Electronics are not allowed at any time.
 8. Boys & Girls Club of the Big Country is not responsible for any personal property brought into the Club.
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Dues Policy

- Membership dues are charged annually or seasonally based on program offerings.
 - Dues help cover basic programming and operational costs.
 - Financial assistance may be available for qualifying families.
 - Dues are non-refundable after the start of a session unless the Club is unable to provide service.
 - A late fee will be assessed if club members are not picked up on time and may impact their ability to attend.
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Complaint Policy

- Parents are encouraged to bring concerns to the attention of the Site Director.
- If a resolution is not reached, the concern may be escalated to the Club's Executive Director.
- All complaints will be acknowledged and addressed in a timely and respectful manner.
- Anonymous concerns may be submitted, but full resolution may require more information.

Contact Information For questions or concerns, please contact your site's Director or visit our main office:

Boys & Girls Club of the Big Country
4610 N. 10th
Abilene, TX 79604
325-672-1712

Thank you for your partnership in supporting the youth of our community!