

SAFETY COMMITMENT

At The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County, Child Safety is our Number One priority. Ensuring child safety is fundamental to the mission of our Clubs

The Safety and Wellbeing of Young People is Job Number One

We work every day to create a safe, inclusive, and fun environment so kids can have every opportunity to be successful in life. We have ZERO tolerance for inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child sexual abuse or misconduct, and we put resources behind that stance.

Culture of Safety: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County continually updates robust safety policies, programs and training for staff and volunteers to promote child safety and protect young people from threats in our society. These resources include but are not limited to:

- Mandatory criminal background checks for anyone working directly with our youth
- Trainings specific to child safety and supervising young people
- Annual safety assessments
- Policies and safety practice training with local law enforcement

Safety Policies: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County maintains comprehensive safety policies that protect youth, including but not limited to policies on supervision, transportation, communication, 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, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County members and staff have access to a confidential 24-hour toll-free Child Safety Hotline at [866-607-SAFE \(7233\)](tel:866-607-SAFE) or SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com.

Mandatory Background Checks: Mandatory criminal background checks are conducted upon hire and annually for every staff, as well as all board members and volunteers who have direct, repetitive contact with children. All potential employees and volunteers are screened through the National Sex Offender Registry.

Mandatory Reference Checks: A reference check is required for every employee. Any employee with a past history of working for Boys & Girls Clubs is required to pass a reference check from their previous Club.

Required Immediate Reporting: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to report any critical incident/safety concern to local authorities immediately.

Mandatory Annual Safety Assessments: We employ a multi-tiered safety assessment approach

to ensure we continually make improvements to safety at our Club(s).

Safety Trainings: Ongoing training and supervision of staff is critical. We participate in a wide variety of child safety trainings through in-person and online courses. We also engage leading third-party safety experts to provide guidance for our policies and approaches.

Safety Committee: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County has a dedicated Board-led Safety Committee to provide input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies. Priorities and initiatives include:

- Ensuring all Club facilities undergo an annual physical safety inspection
- Regularly reviewing and updating Club policies related to the safety of youth
- Reviewing critical incidents and initiating corrective action as necessary

State and Local Laws: We comply with federal, state, and local safety laws, including those impacting 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 for Clubs. Partners include:

- National Child Safety Advisory Task Force, made up of leading experts and organizations
- Blue Ribbon Taskforce, composed of local Club leaders who provide input on safety direction and key safety initiatives
- Mental Health First Aid, a national program that teaches skills to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse
- Crisis Text Line, a confidential text message service for youth in times of crisis

Locally, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County partners with:

- Ada County Sheriff's Office
- Boise Police Department
- Garden City Police Department
- Meridian Police Department
- Central District Health

Nationally, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has advocated for passage of the [U.S. PROTECT Act](#) to improve background screening systems and access. The national organization has also partnered with the [FBI](#), the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) to support the development of safety practices that benefit ALL youth-serving organizations.