



AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER MILWAUKEE (BGCGM), CHILD SAFETY IS JOB NO. 1

Ensuring child safety is fundamental to the mission of BGCGM

The Safety and Wellbeing of Young People is Our Number One Priority

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 no tolerance for inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child sexual abuse or misconduct, and we put resources behind that stance.

Culture of Safety: BGCGM 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.

Safety Policies: BGCGM 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, BGCGM members and staff have access to a confidential 24-hour toll-free Child Safety Hotline at 866-607-SAFE (7233) or SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com.

Mandatory Background Checks: Mandatory criminal background checks are required upon hire and annually for every staff and board member at BGCGM. In addition, criminal background checks are required for any volunteer who has direct, repetitive contact with children.

Required Immediate Reporting: BGCGM staff and volunteers are all mandated reporters and are 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 ensure we continually make improvements to safety at our Clubs.

Safety Trainings: Ongoing training and supervision of staff are critical. We participate in a wide variety of internal and external child safety training through online courses, seminars, conferences and webinars. We also engage leading third-party safety experts to provide guidance for our policies and approaches, including Praesidium, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the National Children’s Advocacy Center.

Safety Committee: BGCGM has a dedicated Board-led Safety Committee to provide input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies. Priorities and initiatives include:

- Provide oversight and support for organization policies.
- Provide additional resources and expertise to create a culture of safety.
- Participate in safety assessments and walkthroughs.

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.

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.

America’s young people deserve nothing less than our constant focus on their safety and our firm commitment to protect every child who is entrusted to our care at BGCGM. To [learn more](#) about our national safety policies and actions, please visit Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s [Child Safety page](#).

