



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington County's absolute top priority is the safety of all our club members. The organization has taken extensive action to equip both our Brenham & Burton Clubs to provide safe and secure environments for our members, as outlined below...

**SAFETY POLICIES:** Both Clubs have safety policies in place that protect youth, including, but not limited to, supervision, transportation, communication and prohibition of private one-on-one contact.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:** All Club employees and board volunteers must undergo an annual criminal background check, and all volunteers (including minors) who have direct, repetitive contact with children must also receive an annual background check. The requirement also applies to staff and volunteers from other organizations who may work in the Club as part of a partnership or collaboration. Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington County has partnered with one of the largest background screening companies, First Advantage, to provide affordable, fast access to the most comprehensive screenings available today.

**REQUIRED IMMEDIATE REPORTING:** The Boys & Girls Club of Washington County is required to immediately report critical safety incidents to law enforcement, regardless of severity to local authorities immediately. Within 24 hours, they are also required to report to BGCA. This enables the national organization to provide timely support and resources to ensure kids are safe.

**TOLL-FREE CHILD SAFETY HOTLINE:** Through our partnership with Praesidium, one of the nation's leading safety experts, Boys & Girls Clubs of America provides a confidential, toll-free Child Safety Hotline to all current or previous Club staff, members or families to report any incident or situation in which they feel unsafe. To access the Child Safety Hotline, call 866-607-SAFE (7233) or email SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com.

**MANDATORY ANNUAL SAFETY ASSESSMENTS:** The Brenham and Burton Clubs are required to complete a safety assessment each year. If any concerns arise, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's staff will take action to make recommendations, require changes or to provide additional support.

**TRAINING:** All staff and volunteers are trained annually on the Club's required comprehensive safety policies. Additionally, all Club employees have access to a variety of safety trainings from BGCA and through partner organizations. Boys & Girls Club of Washington County participate in a wide variety of child safety training conducted through seminars, conferences, webinars and a semi-annual safety symposium. All Club members and employees conduct safety drills every month.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Boys & Girls Club of Washington County has a dedicated Board led Safety Committee to guide our safety efforts and policies and to also provide input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies.

**MANDATORY EMPLOYEE REFERENCE:** Any employee interested in moving to another Boys & Girls Club is required to have a reference from the previous Club, even if the Clubs are within the same community.

**STATE AND LOCAL LAWS:** The Club is required to comply with federal, state and local safety laws, including those impacting facilities and vehicles.

**APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY:** Boys & Girls Club of Washington County has developed policies to ensure the safe and appropriate use of technology in the Club, including computers, mobile technology and social media. Resources, trainings and activities are tailored for various audiences and age ranges, including kids, tweens, teens and adult staff members.

**PICK UP PROCEDURES:** Due to Covid-19 parents or guardians are not allowed to enter the building to pick up their child. Pick up starts at 4:30 pm and is set up as a one lane drive thru. Parents or guardians are required to stay in their vehicle at all times. The front driveway is a one-way road that is closed and barricaded until 4:30 pm to ensure our member's safety while loading and unloading buses and vehicles. To request an early pick up parents or guardians must call before 2:00 pm to make the appropriate arrangements.

**ID BADGES:** All Members, Staff and Volunteers wear a photo ID badge. This badge is required for entry into the Club and to participate in all activities. We use the badges to assist with identification of each member, staff, and volunteer. Badges are also used to maintain accurate attendance records.

Last but not least, we need your help in keeping kids safe. Please talk to your child about staying safe and encourage them to speak up if they are part of a scary/unsafe situation.

**Thank you for your help & please let us know if you have questions or concerns at any time!**

[club@bgc-brenham.org](mailto:club@bgc-brenham.org)

(979) 277-9383

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**