

Boys & Girls Club of Council Bluffs

Organization Description/Mission: Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs on the Charles E Lakin Human Services Campus gives the youth of our community a new place to go to grow, to stretch, to learn or just to get a healthy snack. At their new Club, members bounce balls off walls or ideas off our talented staff and volunteers. They learn to juggle, whether it's bean bags or the day-to-day challenges of their lives. Boys & Girls Clubs serve youth from ages 6 to 18 by providing a safe, fun and positive place for only \$100 a year in membership fees. Members can get help with homework, eat a nutritious meal, discover hidden talents and interact with caring adults.

The Club is open every day after school and evenings with programs that emphasize character and leadership development, the arts, health and life skills, education and career enhancement and sports, fitness and recreation. Trained professionals carry out the mission to “inspire all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, healthy and caring citizens.” Offering a place of hope and opportunity, Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs strives to become a great partner for local educators, parents, business people, and community members to make a difference in the lives of local youth. Find out more by visiting www.bgccb.org.

Project Contact:

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Project Details:

Project A: CB Leadership Class develops a calendar for each class member to select a predetermined day(s) of the week to volunteer at the Club for 2 hours each evening during a time to meet their individual time schedule within the Club operating hours. Volunteer opportunities include the following: reading to a child, listening to a child read, helping with homework, helping with computers, playing board games or recreational games; playing in the gym; working the check-in counter, working the control counter, delivering a specialized class of interest, and many more. Each class member would just need to fill out our volunteer form and pass our background check.

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Project B: A variation of Project A, we'd like you to consider volunteering at the Club and pairing up with 1 to 3 Club members to serve as their mentor. While volunteering at the Club you can play a board game with your match, help them with their homework, talk to them about the school day and find out more about them. Members range in age from 6 – 18, so you can pair up with a member who is of an age that is comfortable for you. A volunteer form and back ground check would need to be done for this project.

Project C: Create a Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs mini-Olympic event for the Club members, residents of the campus and/or neighborhood youth. This event can be as big as you'd like to make it. The mini-Olympics could be held in the Club gym for just the younger members at the Club or it could be held in the parking lot or on the campus ground for any community youth. Here is a website that will provide you with some starter ideas for mini-Olympic games: <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/sportscrafts/a/070300a.htm>. Prizes can be kept small and donated from local businesses. If the class chooses to make this a larger event more planning and promotion would be involved. This event could be so many different things with great minds bringing it all together.

Dates:

Project A: For example, Tuesday and Thursday could be CB Leadership Class volunteer day and 2 class members could volunteer every Tuesday and Thursday anytime between 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm starting in October and going through May.

Project B: You would come to the Club once a week for an hour to spend time with your Club member or one of your Club members during the day at a time that works for you and the member.

Project C: The planning and creation of the games can be done based on the class member's availability. The min-Olympics can be held during the week any time afterschool and before 8 pm or on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Time Commitment:

Project A: If there are approximately 20 members in the class and two volunteer on Tuesday and two different members on Thursday for two hours each week from October through May, then each member volunteers at the Club 5 different times for a total of 10 hours.

Project B: At an hour a week for approximately 20 weeks, you'd spend 20 hours at the Club.

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Project C: The time commitment will vary depending on how large of an event the class would like to hold. Class members could be paired up to create 1 or 2 games for the Olympics, then everyone would need to be involved on the day of the event. The event could last between 2-3 hours.

Benefit to the Community:

Project A: Our staff to member ratio is 1:20 on a normal Club day. With the help of caring, adult volunteers our members can receive more individualized attention. Volunteers who serve as an extra set of eyes to watch children can make the Club a safer place. With extra volunteers in the building, Club staff can deliver more Club programs that help prepare our young people for the work force, a career or just being a better student. This in turn, will make an incredible impact on our community as we prepare our youth to be community leaders.

Project B: Together your class could make a true impact in the lives of 20 community youth. Some of you may form a lasting friendship that extends beyond the time frame of the project. Just having an extra adult to turn to no matter what happens in a young person's life makes a big difference. Your guidance as a role model will give them one more person to share with them the importance of an education at all levels and someone to help them discuss the difficult choices they have in their lives.

Project C: This is a project that involves creativity and fun for you as the volunteer and for the youth involved. FUN is a key element of life and of the Club. This event would bring folks together in the community during preparation and on the day of the event, thus developing a sense of team work and community pride.