



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BLOOMINGTON**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Boys & Girls Club to Open Doors to Kids for Full-Day Program this Fall

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington is opening its doors this fall to serve youth and families in need of care during the school day and to provide a safe place for youth to pursue e-learning.

“Guided and called by our mission, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington will operate full-day programs this fall to meet our community’s child care needs,” said Jeff Baldwin, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington. “Through untold hours of research, discussion, and planning by our staff and Board of Directors, we will serve youth and families by following all federal and state guidelines to ensure the safety of our kids, families and staff. We do not take this endeavor lightly, or the responsibility that comes with it,” added Baldwin. “Safety has always been, and will always be, our top priority.”

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington served 200 youth for 9 weeks in full-day summer camp programs across all Club locations this year. Youth were served in the “youth pod” format, where programming is modified to keep kids socially distanced and in small groups of between 10 and 15 kids. Plans are in place to open as many as 30 pods that will be able to serve between 300 to 450 kids this Fall in full-day programming that will be focused on e-learning support. Pods will be located in all three Club sites and in 6 other off-site locations planned to date, with the potential for more sites. Programming at all sites will be run by Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington staff.

Club programming operates under the highest safety standards in compliance with CDC, state, and local health guidelines. To decrease the possibility of spreading COVID-19, numerous policies and procedures have been implemented to ensure the safety of our kids, staff, and parents. Some of those important procedural changes include, but are not limited to: daily health screens for all staff and club participants; proper hand hygiene procedures to take place at 45 minute intervals; members placed in static groupings, or “youth pods”, of no more than 15 to limit direct contact within the facility; all activities will encourage physical distance of 6 ft. between members and staff; members and staff will wear face masks throughout the program, unless members are stationary and eating; and, daily cleaning procedures will ensure high-touch surfaces are frequently disinfected.

The Lincoln Street and Ferguson Crestmont Clubs are working with the MCCSC school system and other local schools to facilitate e-learning during this full-day program time. The Ellettsville Club will serve students in need from the RBBCSC school system and other surrounding Ellettsville schools. Staff from all Clubs will also operate offsite locations utilizing the same guidelines to increase the numbers of youth we can serve while maintaining our high safety standards and empowering kids to focus their attention on learning. Additional sites

may include schools, churches and other locations and will be determined based on demand for these programs from Monroe County families and the ability of the Club to staff them.

At this time, the Club is beginning with limited capacity due to COVID-19 safety precautions, but will open additional membership spots and sites to meet the need. Anyone who is interested in full-day programming and e-learning support for their children is encouraged to reach out to the Club to communicate their needs.

Although BGCB typically charges only \$20 per year for Club programs, costs to run full-day programs and serve members in multiple sites in smaller groups requires BGCB to charge a weekly fee this Fall. Thanks to a generous grant of \$30,000 from the newly created LEARN Fund at the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, BGCB is able to keep this fee for families low even though operating costs have substantially increased. To begin the Fall semester BGCB will be offering service for each child at \$20 per week. Please note to participate in Club programming, students must become members first, which includes a \$20 annual membership fee in addition to the weekly cost. Partial “scholarships” are available upon request for families who cannot afford this additional fee. In order to keep this cost low and to build the scholarship fund for those who need it, we are asking the community to donate to help the Club keep its doors open to provide full-day childcare during this difficult time. If you would like to provide scholarship funds for other families and kids who cannot afford this additional fee that must be charged due to increased expenses related to COVID-19, please contact Leslie Abshier at labshier@bgcbloomington.org or 812-287-7446.

For questions about Fall programs, how to become a member, how to receive financial support to attend, or how you can help fill the staffing need through employment at the Club please contact Courtney Payne-Taylor at cpayne@bgcbloomington.org or 812-287-8200. On Tuesday, August 11th at noon, Jeff Baldwin and Courtney Payne-Taylor will be hosting an open forum live for anyone to hear about the program and ask questions. This can be found at [facebook.com/bgcbtown](https://www.facebook.com/bgcbtown). An informational parent meeting will also be held Tuesday, August 11th at 7:00 PM. To sign-up for these parent meetings or to get more information about Fall programs, policies and procedures **please go to <https://bgcbloomington.org/Fall2020>**.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens. The Club operates three units serving youth in Monroe County: Lincoln Street, Ferguson Crestmont, and Ellettsville. Offering low annual rates, the Club is a place where all local youth can safely learn, grow, and become the adults of tomorrow. To learn more about programs and events at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington or to make a donation, visit www.bgcbloomington.org, call (812) 332-5311, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

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