



# THE BUGLE

Thank You  
For Supporting  
The Club For Boys!



Summer 2024 • Helping all boys meet their needs today, so they can fulfill their potential tomorrow



## More Than A Building

*...a home away from home.*

**SUMMER HAS BEGUN** and it feels like Thanksgiving or Christmas day with all your family present. The roar of celebration, laughter, and hugs spreads throughout the entire Club building.

When you walk into the Games Room, it feels like a giant “living room” with a fireplace where everyone gathers. You see boys running up to staff and friends with arms wide open waiting for a giant bear hug. They are excited to see friends from different schools or members that are only able to come in the summer. There are games and contests, billiards, and the family game that is a tradition every year – carpetball.

As you walk around the additional rooms, you will see friends playing together, of all different ages. The younger boys will be building big cities out of Magna-Tiles, doing imagination play with action figures, or playing with race cars. You will also see the preteens building Lego sets and playing video games and board games.

When you go to the lower level “living room”, our Den, you will find teenagers playing cards, ping pong, watching movies, and hanging out with their best friends.

The smell of something good cooking will draw you to the kitchen and dining room, our cafeteria, where everyone gathers for a meal. We serve breakfast, lunch, snacks, and a fruit and veggie bar.

You wander past the “study”, our Education Center, and see boys reading, playing chess, or working on the computer.

Then you make your way outside following the noise of a hammer. When you walk through the “garage”, our Shop, you see boys and hand tools. They are building birdhouses, making things out of scraps, and doing arts and crafts where glue and paint won’t get all over the carpet.

You head to the “driveway”, our gyms, there are boys playing basketball, dodgeball, Nerf wars, and baseball together. Their laughter and comradery are infectious urging you to cheer them on.

Lastly, you will see boys in the garden, our outdoor program, bird, or animal watching, playing in the mud to build the best mud pie for dinner, and relaxing in hammocks.

As always, a house is just a building. It is all about who is in it that makes it a home. The adults in the family, our staff, care about each individual member that attends. They go out of their way to assure everyone lives by the family mission - safe, caring, and fun.

The Club for Boys is more than a building. It is a home away from home.

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- Celebrating Afterschool Professionals





# Meet our 2023 Boy of the Year – Braden Liefker



**ON MARCH 11, 2024**, Braden, like many of our Boy of the Year nominees walked into our gymnasium excited and nervous about the possibility of receiving the 2023 Boy of the Year Award. Braden came with his family who were all proud that he was a candidate. As Carri Redmond, Club Director, was on stage with our twelve nominees, Braden stood proud and tall. Then his name was called, and his face turned to shock.

“I didn’t think I was going to get it,” his face lit up when telling a staff after the banquet. “I cannot believe it.”

Braden, age 14, started attending the Club when he was 9. Braden can be found hanging out in the Games Room, participating in a Pool Shark tournament, and playing basketball in the gym. He was a top reader in the Education Center last summer, and he was the Walk Club winner two years in a row.

The Club for Boys is not the only place Braden shines. When hearing from others about Braden, everyone said that he is always kind to others. In addition, he is a leader in the classroom, on the court, and on the field. He participates in placing wreaths and flags on the grave sites at the National

Cemetery, and takes the lead on doing an annual Easter Egg Hunt in his neighborhood, to name only a few things which make him our Boy of the Year.

Carri Redmond stated, “Braden is spectacular in all that he embodies. We see that at the Club, and it is the same everywhere he goes whether it is to church, school, sports, 4H, he has the same characteristics. He is very humble about all of this. He has won lots of awards here at the Club, and he is not one to boast about it. He is more about building up those around him versus ‘hey look what I just won.’”

Travis Koller, Junior Boys Director, explained, “Braden is one out of all the kids who come to the Club, which is hundreds or thousands. He really shows what we represent. He is fair, he is kind, he is always willing to help, and he is willing to participate in multiple activities. He is just a great example of what you want to see from somebody who comes down to the Club.”

## *Congratulations,* **BRADEN!**



I will show my love for God in the way I treat my family, friends, and fellow members.

I will show respect for our flag and our country, which has given me my freedom.

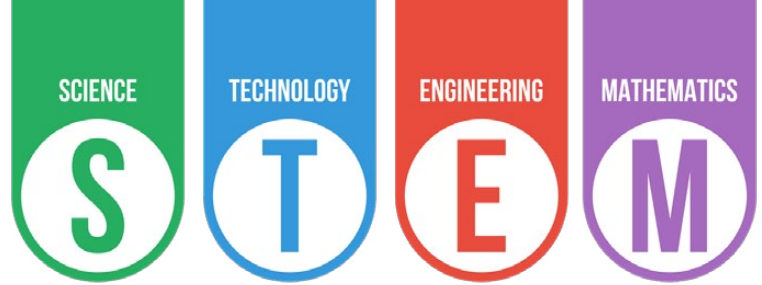
I will show my gratitude for our Club by displaying fair play, honesty, sportsmanship, and respect for the staff, Club equipment, and my fellow members in all that I do.

I will show kindness to others and will expect them to show kindness to me.

I understand that my membership depends on my ability to live up to this code.



# Growing STEM



**LAST SUMMER**, Tanner started at The Club for Boys as our Creative and Learning Specialist. His focus is to offer STEM, project-based learning activities to our members with our Education Program and throughout all areas of the Club.

Congratulations to Tanner on receiving his National STEM certification in April 2024!

Tanner has brought a new level of excitement into our Shop Program. Boys line up outside of the Shop door or look through his window to see what he is setting up for the day.

Tanner has brought some new and old activities back into the Shop. He has implemented a 3D printer, coding, stop motion, circuits, and more. He is bringing back plastics and woodworking, while giving the boys a safe place to utilize their artistic ability in activities like art, crafts, or painting.

With the certification, Tanner is now implementing daily stem activities. Imagination Mondays are a true highlight for our members. Imagination Mondays give boys the opportunity to problem solve, adapt to mistakes or hurdles, and build resiliency in completing a task. They are given the opportunity to build things with their mind, use creativity, and their education.

Tanner's influence goes beyond the Shop. He is spreading STEM, creativity, and learning throughout the Club by collaborating with different program areas. In April, he partnered with the Hideout (ages 10 – 12) and the Den (ages 12 – 17) to build bridges out of popsicle sticks. Each boy who participated got to see how much weight their bridge would hold and a winner was declared at the end. After the excitement of that collaboration, the boys are now excited to do an egg basket launch this summer.

“This new format, with our Shop program being an extension of our education program, is exposing our members to other elements that are not in the traditional education domain such as math, writing and reading,” Gregg McNabb, Education Director stated. “It is using other parts of the brain that can show them that they can be successful while enhancing their math and reading. This uncaps the ceiling for what our boys might feel their career paths are limited to.”



When asking Tanner his goal for this program, he stated,

“ I hope this gives our members the opportunity to learn or participate in something that they have never done before along with offering new opportunities and possibilities of things they enjoy. I also hope this can help them dream big and open their eyes to new opportunities after they leave the Club. ”  
— Tanner, Creativity and Learning Specialist

Chantel McDonnell, Director of Development added, “Tanner is an amazing addition to The Club for Boys staff. The Club focuses on offering a quality program to our members, but he does so much more than that. He is a positive role model to all our members and a great person for them to look up to.

## 4 wishes

- MAGNA-TILES
- Tonka Trucks
- Bean Bag Chairs
- Kinetic Sand



We are able to do more at The Club for Boys with the support of people like you!

In addition to your financial support of our work, which keeps our dues at just \$12 per year per boy, we would appreciate donations for some items for The Club!



### Thank You for Your Support!

You may also scan this QR Code to view other items on our Amazon Wish List!

# YOUR GIFT CHANGES THE LIVES OF OUR BOYS

We would like to thank everyone who donated gifts of time, money, and in kind.

Thank you to the people, businesses, and organizations that gave gifts from January 2024 to March 2024 to The Club for Boys.

We would like to thank everyone who donated gifts of time, money, and in kind. The following people, businesses, and organizations gave cash gifts of \$250 or more. Those with a \* gave \$1,000- \$9,999, + gave \$10,000- \$99,999, and ! were gifts of \$100,000 or more.

## The Club for Boys Donors

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Kurt & Suzie Whitesell \*  
Doug Williamson  
Roger & Diane Wilson  
William Wittrig \*

## Thank you, Santas!

*In December 2023, the following people and organizations made a Christmas celebration possible for 546 people in 74 families of 133 Club for Boys members. Thank you to all these Santas.*

Laree Adkins  
The Attic West II  
Russ & Betty Backus  
Alaina Barry  
Larry Beezley & Evelyn Provell  
Rebecca & Richard Belsaas  
Phyllis Bergeron  
Steve & Gail Bernard  
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Black Hills Oral & Maxillofacial  
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Cathy Mattson Casteel &  
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Spencer Crawford  
Kathy Creager  
Wendy Crews  
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CTC Engineering & Design  
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Jane & Jim Doyle  
Gerie Ericson  
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Donna Foss  
Alan & Heidi Bell Gease  
Sara Gentry  
Joanne Gervasi  
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Dave & Lori Litzen  
Jamie Lowry  
Kevin Malon  
McDonald's  
Donna Hisek-McGlade & Thomas  
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Kris McKittrick  
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Bonnie & Richard Miller  
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Monument Health Ortho/Neuro  
Surgical Dept.  
Monument Health Pharmacy  
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Carlyle Nelson  
Virginia Nelson  
Janize Nissen  
Northwestern Engineering  
Ed & Jane O'Leary  
Rushmore/Noon/Morning Optimist  
Club  
Ozzie & Bev Osheim  
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Mary Lou Paulson  
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Play It Again Sports  
Point Wealth Advisors  
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Susan Ripple  
Jeff Saline  
Kristy & Richard Savage  
Jean & Scott Scherer  
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Terri Silver Wetsch & Larry Wetsch  
Stuart & Michelle Wevik  
Fred Whiting  
Diane & Roger Wilson  
Kevin Wolfe  
Jerry & Pat Wright  
Amie & Doug Zaug  
Paula & Bill Zavitz



# Celebrating Afterschool Professionals

From April 22 – April 26, 2024, The Club for Boys celebrated Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week.

We celebrate each one of our program staff who make a profound difference in the lives of our members.



**Aaron, Older Boys Director** – KUDOS to you for kicking off a successful Older Boys Athletic League this year.

**Clay, Director of Individual Services** – KUDOS to you on the guidance and positive encouragement you give to every boy that needs it.

**Fran, Kitchen Assistant** – Thank you Fran for always making sure that our boys have fresh fruits and veggies ready to eat every day.

**Gregg, Education Director** – Exceptional work to Gregg, for bringing in Educational Coaches, who are doing a fantastic job inspiring our members to strive to do a good job in school.

**Hope, Membership Assistant** – KUDOS to Hope for transitioning into our membership department and always spreading joy to everyone you are around.

**Jordonn, Younger Boys Director** – Fantastic job on continuing to build your program area into an oasis that our boys ages 8-9 want to stop into every day.

**Leah, Assistant Nutrition Director** – KUDOS to Leah for creating homemade meals from scratch for our members to enjoy.

**Maggie, Outdoor Director** – Well done to Maggie for making a program that our members are excited about and building positive and uplifting relationships with our members.

**Matt, Younger Boys Athletic Director** – Great job on jumping headfirst into the Younger Boys Gym position and being a positive and hardworking team player.

**Mike, Social Recreation Director** – KUDOS to Mike for keeping the most chaotic room in the Club calm and organized. Keep up the great work on your strong teachable moment guidance and sense of humor.

**Nick, Program Director** – Great job to Nick for always being available to pivot into program areas that need assistance in addition to overseeing our leagues.

**Phil, Program Director** – Thank you to Phil for helping us take our family nights and special events to another level, offering a great experience to everyone that attends.

**Rebecca, Membership** – We appreciate your positive attitude and calmness that you bring to our very busy membership office.

**Sarah, Nutrition Director** – Great job to Sarah for providing fun, kid friendly meals that are nutritious and that they enjoy.

**Tanner, Creativity and Learning Specialist** – KUDOS to Tanner for being so flexible and wearing many hats when you first joined our team.

**Tara, Younger Boys Director** – KUDOS to Tara for diving in and building a fun program for our boys ages 6-7 including introducing a Lakota Language program.

**Travis, Junior Boys Director** – Great job to Travis for transitioning into the Hideout and being a positive influence on both our staff and members.

**Tristan, Older Boys Athletic Director** – Great job to Tristan for taking over our leagues and stepping up the bar on making it one of the biggest programs for our families.



We appreciate every one of our program staff members.

Our program would not be what it is today without every one of you!





Rapid City Club for Boys  
320 North 4th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Return Service Requested



[TheClubForBoys.org](http://TheClubForBoys.org)



[Facebook.com/TheClubForBoys](https://www.facebook.com/TheClubForBoys)



605-343-3500

# Learn How You Can Make A Difference – Volunteer at The Club for Boys.

There are many opportunities to get involved at The Club for Boys and Thrift Store. Here are five of our top volunteer needs:

- 1 Games Room Volunteer** – Come and lead games and contests for our boys in the Games Room.
- 2 Outdoor Program Volunteer** – Volunteers needed to go on field trips, fishing and hiking trips, and assist with bike and walk club.
- 3 Kitchen Monitor Volunteer** – Help monitor our members during mealtimes. Assist with monitoring members, talking with our members, and helping with clean up.
- 4 Thrift Store Clothing or Processing Volunteer** – Volunteers needed to help sort and clean donations.
- 5 Coaches and Referee Volunteer** – Volunteers needed to help coach and referee our 3 leagues – tennis baseball, basketball, and flag football.



If you are interested, please contact Samantha, Volunteer & Event Coordinator at The Club for Boys at **(605)343-3500** or [samanthaw@theclubforboys.org](mailto:samanthaw@theclubforboys.org)